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JOHN BULL

Vol. XIII. No. 342 | SATURDAY DECEMBER 21. 1912. | ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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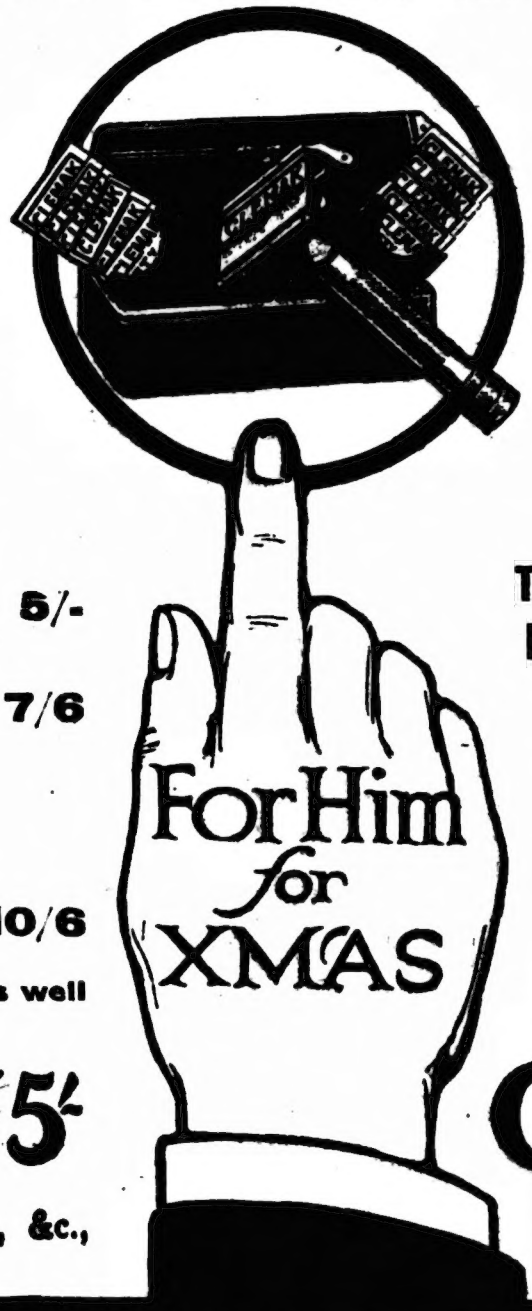

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JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XIII. No. 342. Week ending Saturday, December 21st, 1912. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *enquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

Kindly Note—

That next week, in order that you may have a really merry Christmas, JOHN BULL will be published, *in both town and country*, on MONDAY, instead of Wednesday and Thursday. We have instructed our staff to put as little vinegar as possible in the ink for this particular issue, but, of course, it will not be *all* sugar. Sweet things are not good when taken in excess.

Please—and Thank You.

Will you kindly look at page 847—where you will find our final appeal for the East End London poor. You have not been *quite* so good as you were last year; but there is just time to catch up the arrears. So *please* send *us* a postal order, and please send to *our depot*, 171, Mare Street, London, N.E., all the old clothes, toys, fruit, boots—*anything* and *everything*—you can spare. Let us have them by *Monday* next, *please*. *Thank* you.

Artful Asquith!

Mr. Bonar Law was a little too previous in wishing to have a formal vote of Parliament thanking Canada for those battleships. "Better wait and see—them," said the Prime Minister. That, of course, is not exactly how he put it, but it is what he meant.

Giving the Game Away!

We were talking again to a prominent Unionist, the other day, on the subject of the Home Rule Bill. "What is your idea," we asked, "in letting the Bill go through, as, according to you, it will never pass into law?" "Well," came the reply, "*it will serve as a basis of negotiation when we come in.*" Funny, wasn't it?

Made in Germany.

We have no doubt that Prince Louis of Battenberg is a very capable sailor; and that being a naturalised British subject, he will have no compunction, when the time comes, in shooting down his German relatives. We *do* wish, however, that having changed his nationality, he would also adopt a more British name. Imagine the consternation on Olympus when Horatio Nelson learns of a great naval engagement in the North Sea, in which the Boys of the Bulldog Breed were led to victory by a Battenberg!

Masterful Winston.

Nobody will deny that Mr. Churchill is a great improvement on his predecessor at the Admiralty. Our only doubt, however, has always been whether he would not prove too masterful for the Sea Lords. Of course, it is absurd that anyone other than a sailor should be at the head of the Navy—but, given the Party system of government, we are disposed to back Winston as the best man on the Treasury Bench for the job. At the same time, he may have blundered over the Bridgeman—Battenberg business.

The White Slave Bill.

The Lords have not improved this measure, and we foresee much trouble ahead. Legislating in a panic is always dangerous—especially where new police powers are concerned. The Courts will have to be extremely chary about putting the flogging power in force—for a first offence.

The Seddon Sensation.

Everyone will be glad to know that Seddon's widow, with her family, has now left the country. We are glad to remember that we have had something to do with bringing that fact about. By the way, we note that the *Weekly Dispatch*, in its defence of the repudiated "Confession," does not suggest that it was made on oath.

The Wild Women.

Our suggestion for birching the Wild Women of Westminster has received a large measure of approval. Oh, for a Business—birch!

How to Kiss.

Would you like to know how JOHN kisses MARY? Then get their combined Christmas number—*John and Mary*—price 2d. Only get it quickly.

Still on the Increase. £1,000 for "Bullet" this week.

A Rum Strike.

There have been all sorts of strikes from all sorts of causes by all sorts of people with all sorts of objects, but the North Eastern Railway one is the first on record over two small rums, hot. At any rate, the man whom all the bother is about says that the Newcastle magistrates must have wrongly convicted him of drunkenness, because on the evening the police arrested him that is all he had imbibed. To most people it would seem difficult to become inebriate on two small rums, hot or cold, but those familiar with police court records know what can be done on two two's of gin and even on two small ports. Many an unfortunate creature, hitherto teetotal, has been utterly undone by expending sixpence on the wine when it is thick and the gin when it is unsweetened.

The Liberty of the Subject.

Of course Knox, like any other man, may be habitually abstemious and yet be caught out once in a way, and it does not follow that because he has been caught out while off duty, once in a long life of railway service, he is unfit for his work. The claim of the men, however, that an engine driver is entitled to get drunk off duty seems to us rather excessive even in a land where we never, never, never, will be slaves. As things are not always what they seem, it does not follow that the strikers of the North Eastern have come out to justify Knox's right to two small hilarious rums hot in his spare moments It should be remembered that we are near a merry Christmas and a happy new year, and that in strikes the cause is often of less significance than the opportunity.

Five Pounds Reward.

We beg to offer a reward of Five Pounds for proof of the story told in the *Daily Mail* a few days ago, of the late Bishop of Ripon, who, "when addressing an open-air meeting, was interrupted by an atheist, who asked him if he believed that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. 'When I go to Heaven,' said the bishop, 'I'll ask Jonah.' 'But supposing,' the other persisted, 'that he is not there?' 'Then you will have to ask him,' was the retort, and the crowd laughed uproariously, while the atheist slunk away abashed." It is only fair to add that the *Daily Mail* quotes the story from the *Church Family Newspaper*, to whom, therefore, we extend our offer of the reward. Where, and when, was the meeting? As a matter of fact, the whole story is one of the most ancient chestnuts in our collection.

"Oh, It's Tommy, Tommy Atkins!"

Here is a letter exactly as it reaches us. ". . . I thought you would like to know about the way that some of the soldiers are treated in the West-end places of refreshment. I was with a gentleman in regimentals of the Coldstream Guards and a friend in plain clothes, and we repaired to Blanchard's for refreshments and were insulted by the commissionaire at the door—'No soldiers allowed in here. If the men are considered good enough to wear the King's uniform, are they not good enough to go into all places if they behave as gentlemen?" The grievance is an old one. When our soldier reader goes marching forth to war no doubt Blanchard's and its customers will throw up their hats, huzza themselves hoarse, and drink beautiful patriotic toasts till they are purple. A condition of every licence should be that the premises must be open at all usual hours to men wearing the King's uniform.

A Toast.

The following toast used to be honoured at public dinners in the early part of last century: "Health to the King, Prosperity to the People, and may the Ministry direct their endeavours to the public good rather than engage in Party distraction." The world moves slowly.

A Methodist Minister's Views.

The *Methodist Recorder*, which does not often come our way, not even on Sundays and holy days, is the last place in the world where we should expect to find the expression of such views as those of the Rev. Stanley Hunt through the medium of an interviewer. "God will not punish us for opening Sunday picture shows," he says. It is "a matter for the people themselves. . . . I have no right, if the people prefer seeing good pictures to hearing my sermon and worshipping my God, to say they sha'n't see pictures at all. . . . Everybody knows that the charity dodge is simply offering a sprat to catch a big fish. If picture shows are wrong, no amount of money given to charity can make them right. An orderly and attractive home life is in the nature of things impossible for tens of thousands of people, and it becomes something like a public duty to provide, on Sunday no less than during the week, some innocent alternative." This is spoken like a level-headed, broad-minded Christian man. We really don't care tuppence about the financial aspects of Sunday picture shows. The shows are either wrong or they are right. They either supply a legitimate public demand or they do not. If they do, then the London County Council (for instance) is no more justified in compelling them to be given "in the interests of charity" than they have to run their own Sunday tramway service on the same system.

Facts from Frant.

It appears that in the pretty village of Frant there is no proper water service, nor any provision made by the local authorities for the removal and disposal of the domestic *débris*. As regards the water supply, we are told that although many of the houses are the proud possessors of a pump of their own, the less fortunate dwellers are compelled to fetch their supplies from the public pumps, of which there are two in different parts of the village, probably set up by private generosity. It would, we should imagine, be a very simple matter to provide a regular and efficient house-to-house service at a small expense. As regards the disposal of the household refuse, a system for its periodical collection should be an elementary matter; as it is, the inhabitants are forced to arrange with some obliging person for the removal of their waste products, which, when taken away and deposited goodness knows where, become, perhaps, the breeding ground for germs of a death-dealing description. All things considered, we are glad it is not our fate to have to live in Frant.

Black and White.

Writing from Headlands in Southern Rhodesia, "One of the Bulls" informs us that there are in Rhodesia well-born and well-educated Englishmen—"gentlemen's sons"—married to black women. "Why, and what is the cause of it?" he asks. "Because there are not many white ones," to answer at a guess, but of course we may be wrong. What perhaps is more to the point is whether, if they returned to England, their black wives would count as a permanent investment or as a casual dabble in Rhodesians.

The Birkbeck Bank.

A correspondent says:—"Cannot you wake the officials up a bit for those who want their money badly? Buck 'em with a word, please." At the time of this colossal failure hundreds of thrifty poor were driven to despair, but, fortunately, the catastrophe did not prove as serious as was at first feared. It has, however, taken a very long time to distribute the assets, and the disappointment of the unfortunate investors would be much alleviated if the balance due were paid before Christmas—when wants are many.

"Bullets" is a Stupendous Success! Why?—

Yanks in British Racing.

Notoriously Yankees are the worst sportsmen in the world—the most braggart winners and the most whining losers—and no doubt the writer of the article in the *New York American* headed "English Stewards Allow a Great Deal of Crooked Work—Honest Men Like Whitney have Little Chance of Winning Feature Events," has a suitable market for his wares. "So long as Harry Payne Whitney's horses are run on the square he need not expect to win any of the famous—or infamous—big handicaps of the English turf," is the opening sentence. In this case, the *New York American* had better try whether it can persuade Mr. Whitney to run them on the crook, and then we shall see where they will come in; incidentally also how Mr. Whitney will come out. This sort of article is not less a contemptible libel on British sport and British sportsmen, the cleanest and straightest in the world, than on the Stewards of the Jockey Club, who in their management and control of the Turf err, when they err at all, on the side of severity towards anybody remotely connected with trickery.

Music and the Savage Breast.

"A member of the Admiral's Band" at Queenstown affrights us with a woeful wail. Apropos of what has been said in these columns about Coaling Hardships in the Navy, he waltzes in with a coal hammer and a grievance to the tune of a string band. "It was the custom some years back," says he, "for the bands in general to regale the ship's company during coaling operations. Now they have to slave regardless of the conditions of their hands in order that a few more tons can be put down to the ship's record. I myself have coaled ship, commencing at 6.30 a.m. and finishing about 3 p.m., then had to play a heavy string programme to the officers' dinner with hands and limbs aching. . . It is all right for the officers to dodge the dust and then to say, 'Oh, it's nothing,' but what of the poor devils about 50 notes down the scale dodging bags of coal crashing inboard?" We dunno.

Under the Rose.

A Hove town councillor, a Mr. Cresswell, announced in the Council the other day that in future he will only vote when he can vote in secret, as he has already lost money on two different occasions. This being the decision of Mr. Cresswell, we suggest to his constituents that at the next municipal election they should find somebody else to represent them. Membership of a Town Council is not a suitable office of honour for a man who is so careful to balance his private business interests with those of the ratepayers he represents. If he dare not speak except in whispers, and dare not vote except under the rose, for fear of offending this or that customer, he has no business to accept such a trust at all.

"Rare and Refreshing"—Footle.

Curses both loud and deep may be heard in some quarters of Croydon, when the National Insurance Act is mentioned. The reason is plain. Mr. E. G. Bates, of Thornton Health, a large employer of labour, was wont each year to make a Christmas gift of £200 to the Croydon poor, many of whom each Yuletide had material reason to rise up and call him blessed. But much stamp-licking under the Act hath had the effect of drying up the fountain of his benevolence. In other words, he finds that he cannot both lick stamps and scatter largesse to the people. The plight of many of his former beneficiaries will be piteous. Instead of being the recipients of the price of a prime turkey at the Festive Season, they find themselves fourpence a week out of pocket for medical benefits which they may never require or receive.

Bad News for Teetotalers.

It is really too bad of dear old Sir George Birdwood to write to the papers, at the age of 80, to record the opinion that his present robust health—and splendid intellect—are due to the fact that he has never espoused teetotal or other fads, but has always eaten and drunk just whatever he fancied. "My oldest and healthiest acquaintance," he says, "and one of the sanest and best of men, was a gentleman who drank a bottle of the best Cognac every day of his life, and apparently was always the better for it." And he adds, with great common sense, the observation that for "one man on the induction of his own experiences of a long life to prescribe for others is all nonsense." Yet even the *Daily Mail* describes these obvious truisms as "amusing confessions." We suppose that had Sir George written a lot of piffle about early rising, careful diet, and the evils of strong drink, his words would have been hailed as a "solemn warning"!

Futile Examinations.

We have long thought that the explanation of the present mediocre character of the Business world is to be found, to a large extent, in the nature of the examination and training of pupils for commercial callings. Here, for instance, we have before us the examination paper at a recent sitting for candidates for the Institute of Bankers in Scotland. The Institute of *Bankers*, remember; and here are some of the questions:—

> Describe the history of the Church of Scotland during the Stewart period. What is its present constitutional position?
>
> Compare the constitutional position of South Africa *before* the Boer War and *since*. How does the Commonwealth of Australia differ from this?
>
> Indicate the origin and development of the Party System in Parliament.
>
> Write brief notes on the Prime Minister, Irish Parliaments, the Entente Cordiale, Star Chamber, the Government of India.

Will anybody tell us what on earth any of the subjects we have mentioned has to do with Banking?

The Bishop's £100,000.

Is the Bishop of the Falkland Islands still cadging for that £100,000, or has he resigned, as threatened, because he hasn't got it? A Chilian reader, living at Punta Arenas, in his Lordship's diocese, tells us that the church in his town will seat about 100 people, though the average attendance is not more than 20, "yet it is rumoured that if the Bishop gets his £100,000, the parson here expects a good amount for extensions. Money spent on any extensions in connection with this church would be shameful waste. . . . In conclusion, I would say, give the Bishop nothing, but keep that £100,000 for the poor people at home." Unfortunately one cannot stay the hand of the foolish.

One of the Old Brigade.

Poor old George Parrott is an inmate of St. Giles' Workhouse. He served in the South Staffordshire Regiment in the name of W. Webb, and having some difficulty in establishing his identity in order to obtain the special campaign pension to which he was entitled, applied to us for help. After some trouble we managed it, and have received a letter from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, stating that Parrott has been granted 9d. a day. We have forwarded this glad news of fabulous wealth to the old man. His trouble, however, will not be ended, for the Guardians will be after him for the 9d. if he stops in the Workhouse. We should strongly advise the old warrior to take his discharge, and put up at the Savoy! His age is 66, so he will have to do a little more skirmishing before he is entitled to his Old Age pension.

Because it is a STRAIGHT Competition.

A Case for Colchester Magistrates.

As the Colchester police and Colchester magistrates like to make themselves very busy and very severe in trivial cases, for a change they should turn their attention to the four officers who recently rode through the district in a motor-car in the small hours of the morning, smashing windows by way of amusement. Judging from a paragraph in the *Essex County Standard*, the chief of police thinks the whitewash brush is the most suitable weapon of punishment. "The Colchester Borough and County police forces were communicated with," says our contemporary, "and it is understood that the escapade was traced to four officers who drove through the district in a motor-car and who have since agreed to pay the damage."

"Sauce for the Goose, Sauce——"

Now this is not at all satisfactory. There is no reason at all why these officers should be treated differently from anybody else. It is safe to say that if they had heard of a poor man or a suffragette or a lunatic going about smashing windows in the dead o' night the Colchester Borough and County police forces would have joined hands and feet in tracking down the culprit, and would have hauled him before the bench on a charge of assembling to create a nuisance, riding to the common danger, waking the sleepy, and doing wilful damage, and the chairman of the bench would have considered the charges proved and inflicted a fine of £5 and costs or fourteen days'. This being so, the business of the Chief of the Police at Colchester is to prosecute these four officers and be quick about it. What is sauce for the suffragette is sauce for the soldier.

Food for the Killjoy.

Here is a sample of the food the killjoys relish. Speaking to the Wesleyan's Senior Young Men's Class at Horncastle, a self-righteous gentleman, whom it is not our intention to advertise, told them that amusements helped idle people to be more idle and dishonest men to be more dishonest; that he had once played a game called dominoes himself, and there was always the desire to best the opponent by fair play or foul; that "therefore behind it all was swindling and trickery," and that he would be sorry to be associated even with football. If this gentleman is the father of little boys they have our deepest sympathy. What a horrible dust he will knock out of their jackets if he catches them playing marbles.

"Oh, Let Us Be Joyful!"

By the way, there is nothing of the killjoy about the Borough Councillors of Swansea, for the Elective Auditors of the borough reveal that when these gentlemen visited the Cray Waterworks, they had (*inter alia*) eleven motor-cars at £3 15s. each, wines and spirits of reticent detail £18 18s., and provisions, as to which mum's the word, £14 12s.; the gentle ratepayer, of course, footing the bill. Then there was the memorable occasion when a sub-committee of four assembled in a local hotel to discuss the state of a road at Ystradgynla, and here the luncheons came to 18s., the whisky to 13s., and the cigars to £1 2s.—paid, of course, by the same gentle ratepayer. It is evident, indeed, that as experts in whisky, and connoisseurs in cigars, Swansea Councillors are hard to beat. Take the sale of the Castle-street site. A certain little sub-committee met and negotiated the following with great *éclat:* 10 luncheons at 5s, 32 cigars at 6d., 2 bottles of No. 113, £1 6s., two bottles of No. 103, £1 5s., and "three bottles," 15s.—again, of course, paid by the gentle ratepayer. It is as we have always said—life is full of joy if you know how to find it.

Canadian Magistrate's Insult.

If the Canadian Minister of Justice is anxious to do his country a good turn, he will take prompt means to shut the impudent and outrageous mouth of Chief Magistrate Jelf, who presides at the Courthouse of Hamilton, in Ontario. This gentleman is constantly making contemptuous allusions to Englishmen, as a class, in his court. Indeed he has become so offensive that it is a question whether justice can best be served by gagging him or shunting him. The other day an Englishman was charged with neglecting to send his children to school. He pleaded that he had been ill and the charge was dismissed, not however before the jaundiced Jelf remarked, "I suppose you are like the majority of Englishmen, who get sick at the sight of a little work." Mr. Jelf himself seems to work mostly by the sweat of his jaw, and the sooner the Minister of Justice puts a gag between his teeth, the better.

A New Drink for Paupers.

We always pity the poor pauper, but more at Christmas than any other time, for then it is that the aqua-puritans and ministers of all denominations start to worry themselves as to whether his poor stomach can stand a glass of beer. At the recent meeting of the Caistor Board of Guardians one member, a Mr. Elvin, suggested that if the inmates were to have beer for their Christmas dinner it should be watered "so as to minimise the evil effects as much as possible." Never surely in the whole history of the Poor Law did a Guardian make a more horrible proposition. He should be more careful in suggesting the administration of these deadly poisons to inoffensive and helpless people.

Labour Exchange Clerks.

Ample evidence is forthcoming in the letters which reach us that the clerical staffs of the Labour Exchanges are seething with discontent under the new regime. Here is a typical case: A. B. joined a certain staff in June, 1911, at £75 a year, receiving his annual increment of £5 in June, 1912. Now, in December, a stranger is pitchforked into the office right over his head at £110 a year, after he has been in charge of the department for at least six months. The stranger knows nothing of the work, and in order that he shall be competent to earn his £110 a year, A. B., at £80 a year, has to teach him the business. It is the old, old story. That other man was probably an ex-butler of a Cabinet Minister.

Sour Seventeen.

We agree with Mr. Plowden that a motor-driver's licence should not be granted at the age of seventeen—perhaps the most dangerous period of adolescence: when the mind imagines that it possesses the wisdom of fifty; and when the fire and devil-me-care bravado of boyhood has not sufficiently cooled to enable the brain to grapple successfully with important responsibilities.

Loaves—Without Fishes.

After the Churchmen, the Nonconformists have been discussing miracles. The interminable chatter makes good copy for the Religious papers, but wouldn't it be better to waste less time about the mythical loaves and fishes and see about sending the tangible goods to East London and elsewhere? *Our* depôt is 171, Mare Street, N.E.

Samuel Richardson on Party.

I am no Party man; I think the distinction between Whig and Tory odious.—(From "Pamela," Vol. I., 1740.)

"Bullets" Increases in Popularity Every Week—because——

"Fatuous Folly."

Mr. Councillor Reynolds, a Methodist ex-Mayor of Southport, in the course of a recent lecture on "My Mayoralty," said: "In regard to Town Councils, what is wanted is personalities, not partisans. It is fatuous folly to turn out men who have done good work and elect in their place men whose only claim is that they are 'red' or 'blue.'" Evidently the Business Government idea is gaining ground, even in Southport; and when we perceive "reds" nominating "blues" and "blues" nominating "reds," that shall be unto us a day of special thanksgiving.

Congratulations, Your Majesty!

No doubt it is the proper thing to congratulate his Majesty on having won his own prize of ten guineas at the King's Lynn Fat Stock Show "for the best beast in the show," but probably His Majesty will be more embarrassed than joyful at his success.

Mr. Lloyd George's Mistake.

It is always a mistake to legislate in a hurry, and it was a great oversight on the part of Mr. Lloyd George not to secure the support of the doctors before he introduced his Bill. *Their* Bill is much more important.

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

THE CAROLLERS.

For them that in the suburbs dwell
The present time is rather trying,
For nightly rings the front-door bell,
And through the letter-flap come prying
Quick, youthful optics, gleaming bright;
And then too plain is heard
How certain Shepherds watched their flocks by night,
And what beside occurred.

The evening meal is scarce begun
Ere on the step is heard a shuffle
Of feet, prepared to "cut and run,"
While voices that the curtains muffle
Whisper a moment, then a shout,
Clear, penetrating, raw,
Informs us that King Wenceslas looked out,
And also what he saw.

The peace a penny-piece restores,
Alas! too soon again is shattered;
For, fresh from other, neighbouring doors,
From which they have been coaxed or scattered,
A new contingent comes, and when
In gasping accents they
Ask God to bless us merry gentlemen,
It fills us with dismay!

Another coin a respite buys,
But all too short our space for breathing,
In wait another party lies,
With vocal energy o'erseething,
And though by now our temper's fizzling,
Like some infernal brew,
We soften when they sing "We've come a-whistling,
A-whistling unto you!"

For who at Christmas can be hard
With children? 'Tis the children's season;
Let not the least of them be barred
From pleasures in the bounds of reason
Then let them knock, and clash the bell
Night after weary night,
And as they shout "No-el, No-el, No-el!"
Take comfort—they are right!

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For stating of one of the characters in his story in the "Stirling Journal and Advertiser" Xmas Number that: "Her brown EYES *danced* UNDER *her white even* TEETH,"

MR. A. MACLURE WARNOCK
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For writing to "The Times" (as quoted in the "Daily Mail") that: "I have never eaten more than TWO MEALS IN ALL MY LIFE,"

MR. L. F. DUNCAN (62, Oxford Terrace, W.)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For inserting in its advertisement column: "An invitation to HAVE YOUR SIGHT TESTED *free of charge* BY LOST, ROUGH-HAIRED TERRIER,"

THE YORKSHIRE EVENING POST
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that, during the examination of a bag which had been carried into a Paris police station: "One officer cut open the bag with his sabre, and two BOA-CONSTRICTORS *quickly left the room and* SLAMMED THE DOOR,"

THE DEVON EVENING EXPRESS & ECHO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of a charge at Newcastle Police Court against two girls of having stolen butter from a local toffee works that: "The former had THREE LBS. CONCEALED BETWEEN TWO SLICES OF BREAD,"

THE EVENING CHRONICLE (Newcastle)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating (according to the report in "The Pioneer") at a meeting of the Ilkeston Town Council that: "You never COMMENTED *on it a little bit.* IF *you did it was* PUTTING YOUR HAND UP. . . *If you* PUT YOUR HAND UP *that is all you* SAID,"

MR. COUNGILLOR SISSON
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating of one of the characters in his tale, "The Girl, who lost her Memory," published in "Answers Library," that: "The girl, HE NOW PERCEIVED, WAS YOUNG AND OF SURPASSING BEAUTY. SHE LAY FACE DOWNWARDS,"

MR. A. P. GARLAND
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its description of the spectacle on the battlefield at the Truce of Chatalja that "Savoff, the rough Bulgar Generalissimo, and NAZIN PASHA, THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE GERMAN ARMY, *clasped each other in silence,"*

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in an article entitled "Tory Menace," published in the "Daily News," that: "If I belonged to a party that had deliberately set itself to deceive the workmen as the Tory Party is deceiving them, I would shake the DUST *of that* BEMIRED *road off my feet, and never walk in it again,"*

MR. H. W. MASSINGHAM
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same "Biscuit" be forwarded by more than one competitor, preference will be given to the reader whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue.

It is the Best Judged of all Competitions.

THE "HOODED" M.P.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE EASTBOURNE MURDER—WILLIAMS VISITS OUR OFFICES—A GRAVE SCANDAL—WEALTHY M.P. INVOLVED.

We seem at the moment destined to play an important part in connection with murder mysteries. No sooner have we been the means of alleviating public anxiety about the Seddon case than we are drawn by the force of circumstances into the vortex of another, and an even more unsavoury affair. The fact is that John Bull has become such an institution that it attracts to itself a vast variety of information and is usually, therefore, in a position to afford assistance in unravelling any public mystery. We suppose we are the repository of more secret information respecting the inner life of the great metropolis than are all the police authorities and private detective agencies combined. Much of it is, of course, of such a character that we are compelled to refrain from publication—at any rate, till extraordinary occasion arises; and we often wonder what many an individual prominent in the public eye would say if he were aware of the contents of some of our dossiers. Much of what is confided to us is, naturally, of an exaggerated character, often inspired by motives of spite or revenge; whilst in many other instances the "evidence" lacks that completeness, or the subject that general public interest, necessary to warrant publication.

Take this Eastbourne murder case. How little the public knows of what is behind it! We wonder whether our readers remember that in the course of his cross-examination of the witness Power, counsel put to him a letter admittedly written by him to the prisoner, and then, after a pause, remarked, "*I wish I dare read it.*" Well, we think we know what that letter contained.

Williams Visits Our Offices.

We know Williams. A few days before the murder he sat in our office. He was accompanied by Power. Both men are intimately associated with a dangerous gang of blackmailers—although it may well be the fact that Power, as in the case of the Eastbourne murder, is acting in collusion with the police. As to that, we may have something more to say at a later stage. And what was the story—the truly remarkable story—which they came to tell us? Let us say at once that we should not repeat it unless we had satisfied ourselves that it contains a very strong substratum of truth. We regret to say that, shocking and revolting as it is, it is not of so exceptional a nature amongst our records as to have led us, at the outset, necessarily to view it with incredulity. Here it is.

A "Hooded" M.P.

Williams and Power professed to be acting in the interests of certain young men, whose sworn statements were handed to us, who had fallen victims to the depraved and vicious habits of a well-known Member of Parliament, whom for the moment we shall not identify further than by saying that he is extremely wealthy. There was no question that, together, they had received large sums of money from this man—each of them having, in turn, been sent abroad, but all of them (there were three) having come back and somehow or other got in touch with Power, who, as assistant to a medical man, had treated them for certain complaints of which he furnished us the details. We were assured that it was the desire of these wretched youths to reform their ways and make a fresh start in life.

"And what do you wish us to do?" we asked.

"Drive the man out of Parliament," came the reply.

"Is that your only object?" we continued.

"Well, of course, he should make some proper compensation to his victims," said Williams.

"In addition to, or *instead* of, retiring?" We laid special emphasis on the word "instead," looking the man fully in the face.

"Both," replied Williams; "but if he acts handsomely, the retirement could stand over till the General Election."

We promised to consider the matter carefully, and at once proceeded to make full enquiries as to the antecedents of our visitors. We were soon enlightened. Regard for the feelings of others closes our lips as to the real identity of the man now awaiting execution. But we were not long in discovering that he was one of a most disreputable gang; and we quickly came to the conclusion that the interests of the M.P.'s victims were the last thing they were concerned with.

In the meantime, we were busily prosecuting enquiries into the grave allegations contained in the sworn declarations which had been left with us. They concerned the honour of a public man, and indirectly the honour and purity of the House of Commons. And, but for the suspicions we had formed as to the corrupt motives of those who had placed the facts before us, we do not hesitate to say that we should have revealed the whole sordid, terrible story. But in the end, and after much deliberation, we decided to wipe our hands of the whole affair, with the result that on November 8th we sent all the original documents back to Power, by registered post, with the following letter:—

Referring to our recent interview, I have now carefully looked into this matter, and have come to the conclusion that it is not one with which I could deal in the columns of a public journal, and in the circumstances I think it best to return herewith the following documents left with me by you:—

(Here follow particulars of seven documents, including a Promissory Note purporting to be signed by the member of Parliament, together with a letter and telegram from him—the latter being addressed to "Doctor" Power, and three sworn statements by persons who testify to their relations with such M.P.).

The only suggestion I can make is that all the facts and papers should be placed before the Public Prosecutor.

Now, it will be asked, what have these documents to do with the Eastbourne murder? The question is a difficult one to answer, but we will make three observations which may throw some light on the subject.

First, we will recall the declaration of Williams, sworn to in the course of the recent trial, that the real object of the contemplated burglary was "to obtain possession of certain documents."

Secondly, we will disclose the fact that the deponent to one of the sworn statements to which we have referred is "*Williams*," and

Thirdly, we will ask—*who provided the expenses for the defence of "Williams" at the murder trial?*

Think it all over—and be prepared for a startling development between now and the date fixed for the execution—when the wealthy and degenerate representative of an important English constituency will no longer remain "hooded."

N.B.—This week's "Bullets" Competition closes a day earlier.

"LIFE-SIZE ENLARGEMENT FREE."

SPOTS ON THE FACE OF THE SON OR DAUGHTER.

In several weekly newspapers there has recently appeared an advertisement inserted by the "N.B.A." Studios, 144, High Holborn, W.C., offering a "life-size enlargement free." It was stated that the offer closed in fourteen days, and, doubtless in view of the season, much stress was laid on the value of a personal likeness as a gift. The announcement proceeded: "If you possess a portrait, no matter how old or faded, which you desire to have made into a *beautiful*, truthful picture, *fit to adorn your home*, do not fail to take advantage of our offer. Send us 6d. for postage and packing, &c., and we will make from your photo a real, truthful and permanent life-sized picture, and forward same to you within fourteen days. There is no further obligation of any kind; all we ask you is to recommend us to your friends, if you are pleased with our work. *We return photos in good order.*"

Damping an Explosive.

We would counsel those who may feel inclined to "bang saxpence" to pause. A Lee reader who, on October 27th, sent the "N.B.A." people the amount for which they ask, gives us his experiences. He says that the enlargement was received in due course, together with a printed letter, evidently sent in the very well-founded anticipation of the enlargement failing to give satisfaction. After stating that the work had been done mechanically by apparatus "capable of enlarging a small object to many hundred (*sic*) of times of (*sic*) its own size" it went on: "Therefore you will understand that such a lens records in the enlarged picture the smallest details of the original Photograph, thereby reproducing an *exact copy*, but it will also reproduce any defects the original may have, as, for instance, scratches, defective spotting, imperfect lighting, etc., etc., etc. Another peculiarity is that the Enlarged Picture loses somewhat in strength when enlarged so many times, and therefore requires hand treatment to bring same up to the strength of the original. It is therefore visible that an Enlargement can be improved on by the removal of all imperfections, by giving the same a suitable background, and by treating the faulty effects of lights and shadows. All such work can be done by the Hand of the skilled Portrait Artist, but we respectfully submit that you will also understand, that same cannot be done *free of charge*, the work necessary (especially on Enlargements from old and faded Photos or Groups) is very considerable. By special arrangements with First-Class Artists, experienced in this class of work, and in order to make our work well known, we are in a position to give your Enlargement a *High-Class finish*, which will add enormously to its appearance, and mount same ready for framing at the *Small cost* of 3s. 9d. each. . . . P.S.—Should you not avail yourself of the above offer, kindly drop us a line, and we will at once return your photograph. In order to enable us to identify your photo amongst the thousands in our hands, please quote the number written on the attached slip, and also at the head of this letter."

Another Missing Picture.

Our correspondent having had enough of the "N.B.A." people, applied at once for the return of his original photograph, quoting the number as requested. No reply reaching him, he again wrote them on November 24th, receiving a couple of days later a post-card saying merely: "Your photo has been sent to you." The portrait not coming to hand, he wrote again, asking for the date on which it was despatched. There still being no reply, he sent a further letter on December 3rd, but has heard nothing since, nor has his photo been returned. Being "only a working man" and quite unable to afford legal proceedings, he appeals to us to publish his case, as "it might save many hundred poor devils being treated in the same way." Perhaps it may.

The concern in question seems to be doing this kind of business on a very extensive scale, for it is apparently necessary to print also the form for customers displeased with the sixpennyworth to fill up when expressing their preparedness to pay a further sum to be "worked up by hand"—we (recalling Joe Gargery's famous description of the unappreciated ministrations of his wife to the infant Pip) had almost said "brought up by hand."

THE "STRAMONIUM" SWINDLE.

PROMISES WHICH DO NOT END IN SMOKE.

Our recent exposure of the new form of shop-lifting—an ingenious dodge by means of which tradespeople are induced to pay cash for unsaleable cigarettes guaranteed to be free from tobacco—has resulted in our receiving many letters from others who have been victimised. The person whom we exposed, "John Watson," 28, Bordesley Street, Birmingham, does not stand alone. A Southsea shopkeeper has fallen to the wiles of the same brand of cigarettes—the "Stramonium"—but the person claiming to be the proprietor of it gave, in this case, an address at Coronation Avenue, Stoke Newington; while, at a later date, an address in Lett Road, Stratford, was used by the trickster. In all the cases which have come to our notice the rascal upon "planting" the goods hurriedly finished his lies and betrayed great anxiety to get away from the shop. Unfortunately, many people who have been landed are very poor—in some cases widows—to whom the money out of which they have been swindled means a lot.

VERY DEEP BEAUTY FAKERS.

HOW TO EARN £20 A WEEK.

Another offshoot of the Yankee Doodle Doer, Elmer Knowles', business is that run under the name of Beatrice Knowles, Beauty Specialist, Westminster Bridge Road. Beatrice may be a sister, a cousin or an aunt of Elmer—or may be Elmer himself; but one thing is certain—that the new beauty doctor is housed in the same premises as the notorious Psycho Success Club. Beatrice in her advertisement tells us that "thousands are deserting the old vocations as dressmakers, clerks, teachers, waitresses, and maids, for the new, fascinating and profitable profession of Beauty Culture." She is prepared to impart this special knowledge by "mail" (Yankee for post) for a consideration. So roll up, all ye ugly ones, and be made beautiful for ever! Doubtless "skinning" is the first process.

A TRICKY TRANSFER AGENT.

ANOTHER OF HIS DODGES.

In our issue of November 30th we had something to say with reference to F. Stallworthy, alias F. Savage and Co. of 333, Gray's Inn Road. Here is his latest advertisement:—

> GENTLEMAN and a Worker with £100 can have a permanent Berth of £2 p.w. and HALF PROFITS in an estb. Business.

One of our readers who answered this advertisement tells us that Stallworthy wanted £100 for half-profits in his employment agency. We would warn all our readers against having anything to do with this concern. It is true that at present it is licensed by the L.C.C., but after our recent exposures we feel confident that the Council will no longer recognise it, despite the lenience on which we have commented elsewhere.

A DIRGE FROM DUNDEE.

THE WAIL OF THE NON-PENSIONER.

The following is from two ex-soldiers:—

> Owing to a revision in P.O. Dundee, we, the undersigned, being ex-soldiers (16 years' Army service, 2 medals, 7 clasps, and 5 years' service as auxiliary postmen), have been dismissed, without any other reason than the alleged revision.
>
> The vacancies are being filled by ex-telegraph messengers and 3 years' Army service men. Though we are qualified in every way, age, experience and character, we are refused appointment *because we are not in receipt of an Army pension*. This sounds "Gilbertian," as the fact of having *no* pension is our misfortune; it should surely be a strong additional reason for granting appointment. We therefore take the liberty of bringing our case before you. There is no doubt we are being treated shamefully by being thrown on the scrap-heap after over 20 years' service to the State.

What says the Postmaster-General—and Colonel Seely?

Over 3,000 Valuable "Bullets" Prizes to be Won. See page 862.

IS THE FORTH BRIDGE SAFE?

THE HOLIDAY MAKERS' PERIL—CHRISTMAS ACCIDENTS.

As though to show the contempt of the mighty forces of Nature for the season of goodwill and rejoicing, Christmastide seems to have been specially selected for the occurrence of great catastrophes of all kinds. The holiday period seldom comes round without an awful explosion in a mine, or a terrible shipwreck, or a disastrous and fatal fire, or—more frequently—a great railway accident, bringing sudden death to thoughtless merry-makers and grief into numerous homes. The most colossal of such catastrophes in this country—the United States in this unfortunate respect, as in others more happy, has experienced accidents on an even larger scale—is undoubtedly that which befell the luckless passengers on a train crossing the Tay Bridge on the night of December 28th, 1879. The great structure had withstood for some time the buffetings of a fearful gale, but at last 3,000 ft. of it gave way. Into this gap rushed the train, full of light-hearted people returning from the Christmas holidays, and of them many perished; the exact number will ever remain in doubt, but is estimated at from 75 to 90.

Besides this gigantic disaster, the season has witnessed the following extraordinary accidents—due in part, no doubt, to the fact of the running of the many "specials" disorganising the ordinary time-tables and throwing upon the habitually hard-worked staff an additional burden which it is quite unable to bear:—

1870, Dec. 26th.—Bell Bar, near Hatfield (Great Northern). Tyre of wheel broke and carriages overturned. Eight killed.

1874, Dec. 24th.—Shipton, near Oxford (Great Western). Tyre of wheel broke; train driven over an embankment. 34 deaths, 70 injured.

1876, Dec. 23rd.—Arlsey Siding, near Hitchin (Great Northern). Collision of Manchester express with goods train. Five killed.

1877, Dec. 24th.—Holcombe, near Leeds (Midland). Collision of trains. Two killed.

1881, Dec. 24th.—Slough (Great Western). Express runs into goods train. Twelve killed.

1881, Dec. 26th.—Between Middlesbrough and Stockton (North-Eastern). Explosion of locomotives. Four deaths.

1885, Jan. 1st.—Near Penistone (Lancs. and Yorks.). Coal wagon, by breaking of an axle, thrown into the way of an excursion train. Four killed and many injured.

1894, Dec. 22nd.—Chelford, near Crewe (London and North-Western). Collision of express train with part of goods train which had been blown on to the line by violent gale. Fourteen killed and 60 injured.

1894, Dec. 26th.—Low Moor, near Bradford (Lancs. and Yorks.). Collision between excursion trains. Sixteen injured.

1899, Dec. 23.—Wivelsfield (London, Brighton and South Coast). Collision in a fog between Newhaven boat-train and Brighton express. Six killed and 18 injured.

1899, Dec. 23rd.—Near Motherwell (Caledonian). Train went over an embankment. Three killed and 12 injured.

1901, Dec. 23rd.—Liverpool Overhead Electric Railway. Train caught fire. Six deaths.

1904, Dec. 23rd.—Aylesbury. Railway accident. Four killed.

1906, Dec. 28th.—Elliot, near Arbroath (North British). Collision. Fourteen killed, 58 injured (8 fatally).

1910, Dec. 24th.—Hawes Junction, Yorks. (Midland). Collision between passenger train and two light engines. Twelve killed, 30 injured.

We give on this page a picture from a photograph taken in a whinstone quarry, east of the Forth Bridge, showing the foundation on which the north (Queensferry) main pier rests. The vital importance of this pier will be appreciated when it is explained that the bridge is formed of two large spans, each of 1,700 ft., or nearly one-third of a mile. Between these, the central pier is founded on the island midway across, and is known as Inchgarvie Pier. The two other main piers are on shore, and are known respectively as the Fife and the Queensferry pier — the latter being, of course, the one to which we are now referring.

Our representative took several other photographs of the pier and its rocky support, but we think the one we publish will cause travellers who have to pass over the great structure to ask whether it is as stable as is evidently the official view To a timorous individual, certainly, the aspect of the masonry, rising up apparently from a support close to a precipice, is apt to give a shock which a closer inspection is not likely to allay—as a number of fissures and cracks on the face of the cliff suggest a further danger from subsidence.

Another disquieting element is that on the north part of the pier—to the right of the picture—blasting is going on regularly, and the engineers must have very great—and to the lay mind incomprehensible—confidence in the ability of the foundations to withstand the succession of shocks entailed by the use of explosives in the neighbourhood of such a peculiarly susceptible structure.

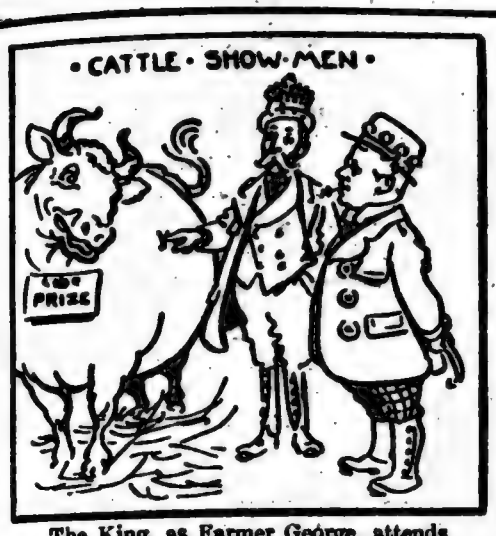
It is interesting to remember that the project for the building of the bridge—at the time of its opening the largest and most magnificent in the world—was actually at one time abandoned owing to the consternation into which the general public, and even the engineering profession, were thrown by the disaster to that over the Tay.

We have no desire to create unnecessary alarm, but we feel compelled to direct attention to the above facts. It is all very well to rely upon official assurances, and upon the fact that so far no accident has occurred. The very least the travelling public has the right to demand is an immediate expert examination and the publication of an authoritative report.

Over 3,000 Valuable "Bullets" Prizes to be Won. See page 862.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

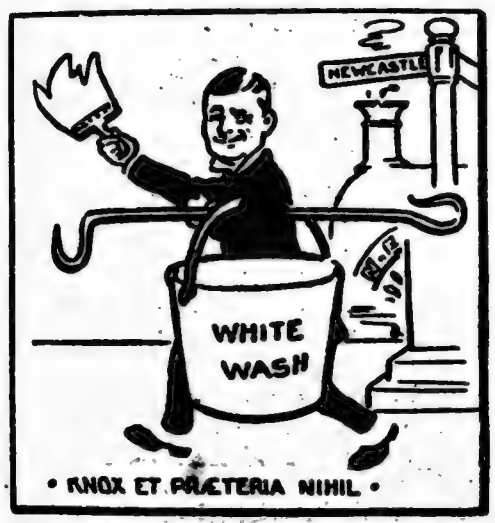
BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."



The King, as Farmer George, attends
The Cattle Show with sundry friends;
And fatted beasts receive with pride
Imperial prods in flank and side.

Peace, filled with apprehensions, waits
The labours of the delegates;
But what the outcome is to be,
She, like the rest, must wait and see.

The legal world is filled with gloom
In spite of the commercial boom:
When trade is brisk John Bull refrains
From sharing with the wigs his gains.



To whitewash Knox by hook or crook
The "beak" a hurried journey took,
And quickly found the needful flaw—
"Though drunk, *he was not drunk in law!*"

The wondering Reading folk behold
A captive fox, as tame as bold,
Which, while its mistress views the styles,
Surveys the poultry shops, and smiles.

The alien ministers of sin
Escape in haste to save their skin,
For Parliament has now declared
For floggings they must be prepared

"MILK-OO!"

WHY THE MILK MAN IS DEFICIENT IN FAT.

A Northcountryman sends us a harrowing document which, he says, describes how nine milkmen out of ten are tied to their employers. We are afraid, however, that the form of agreement which he encloses is that customary in many other trades, including, as it does, the famous—or infamous—"radius clause"—that is, a stipulation that an employee, when the service terminates, shall not for a certain period be engaged in a similar business within a more or less lengthy radius from the master's establishment. Our friend, however, is, seemingly, on rather weak ground when he takes as an instance a man who, "not being in a physical condition to do hard manual labour in the big works of our towns, decides to take to the open-air life and be a milkman." Such a man, he informs us, after being at work for a month or two, probably finds that he is not receiving as much as he should, but his employer, knowing how he has been tied down, will not remedy the grievance. The poor man must retain his place at his master's mercy. The result, he says, is that the milkman's job is looked down upon with disgust, the average wage earned being from 17s. to 24s. per week, our correspondent even knowing of married men, with families, working for 17s. and 18s. He suggests that the milkmen should band together to raise their status, and it certainly seems to us a very desirable step. But any Trade Union would probably be concerned more with the interests of the normal, healthy employee, than he who had been driven by infirmity to accept the work for a starvation wage.

PITY THE POOR EDITOR!

MORE GEMS FROM OUR LETTER BAG.

"Will you please tell me should a cook be allowed her wages stopped for seeing her young man, and if so what has the Misses to say about the stamps which I have to buy out of the money she stopped for my beer. Will you please defend me in the Law Courts if I have her arrested?"

"Can you tell me who Lord Strathcona succeeded to the Tittle. I know the Famely name is Smith. And where his Father died. Also where Lord Strathcona was married."

"Would you favour me by informing me as to whether McLaughlan, of Woolwich Arsenal, ever lived in Tottenham?"

"I am desirous of acquiring a wholesale and retail city tobacconist bissness and would like to ask you the percentage of profit made on tobacco, also would you kindly state where I should be able to obtain the information (general) requisite to such a bisness, and thirdly do you consider the above-mentioned a good investment. I would like to state that I have not been in bissness previously. Age 21."

"Dear Sirs or Madems, If five men go into a pub calling for twopenny drinks alround which would amount to 4s. 2d., another five go into a pub calling for the same which also amounts to 4s. 2d. Total 8s. 4d. Another ten men arrives, but six calling for 2d. drinks first alround which would amount to six shillings the other four calling for twopenny drinks alround which amounts to 2s. 8d. total 8s. 8d. Please could you tell me why the 4d. difference?"

Still on the Increase. £1,000 for "Bullets" this week.

"TOUCH" WOOD AND WHISTLE.

LARGE PROFITS AND QUICK RETURNS—OF CHEQUES.

A Cardiff correspondent sends us his amusing experiences with George Wood (who at the time—May last—apparently resided at 14, Alfred Street, Plymouth), with whom it will be remembered we dealt in our issue of July 6th, when his address was 30, St. Andrew's Road, Exmouth. In response to his reply to an advertisement similar to the one we have already quoted, and purporting to be inserted by somebody of entirely dissimilar name and address, offering "£2 weekly to gentlemen with small capital, willing to render small service," the Welshman received from Wood the printed letter which we have also reproduced, leading off with the somewhat "tall" statement that the writer found it extremely difficult to back horses himself, owing to the large percentage of his selections being winners. He therefore made the offer to pay the £2 weekly to persons who could "get a few pounds on" for him from time to time. Should a horse lose, Wood promised to post off a cheque; in the event of it winning, the amount was to be forwarded as soon as collected from the bookmaker. As we have already indicated, the weak spot—from the point of view of the backer—of this little scheme is, of course, that the punter is personally liable to the bookmaker, and it would be possible for Wood to "touch" his agent for a win and when there was a loss leave that unfortunate individual to whistle for his money. That this danger was not at all a remote one in Wood's case, is now evident.

The first telegram despatched to the proposed backer would, if acted upon, have resulted in a loss of £5; but our correspondent had all the cautiousness of his race and did not risk his money. Nevertheless, with a view to seeing what would have happened, he allowed the great Turfite to think that the money had been put on, with the result that he received a piece of notepaper, bearing the wording of a cheque for £5, the bank named being, however, situated as far from Plymouth as York. Wood's explanation of the irregular nature of the document was as follows: "I have had to draw so many cheques lately that I have exhausted my book, but have written for another." Owing to the remoteness of the bank, the cheque, of course, required some days for clearance. Meantime, and within a few hours, came instructions to make another wager. Pending knowledge as to the fate of the first cheque, no business was done. The animal named was also a loser. Again came half a sheet of notepaper. Wood made a third attempt the next day, but the Welshman was still not to be drawn. It will hardly surprise our readers to learn that the two half-sheets of notepaper came back from York marked "No Account."

Had the person who had apparently entered the booby-trap been a "mug"—and Wood could hardly have anticipated any but a greenhorn being induced to respond to his advertisement—the victim would, of course, have been heavily "touched," and left to whistle for his money.

HOWELLS, THE BOOK TOUTS.

"A PUBLIC SCANDAL."

Our frequent exposures of Howell and Co., the book peddlers, are at last having effect. Recently at Portsmouth, a claim for £2 14s. was made against J. Hampton, a skilled workman in the employ of the Post Office. He had agreed to purchase certain books, but afterwards found they were "too advanced" and sent them back. Mr. G. H. King, who appeared for the plaintiffs, urged that the contract for the purchase was perfectly clear, and the defendant must have thoroughly understood its terms. The judge, however, said that the books were too advanced for him, and for publishers to go round in this way and take advantage of the ignorance of poor people was "a public scandal." He came to the conclusion that the defendant did not know the nature of the contract, and gave judgment for him with costs. On Mr. King asking leave to appeal, his Honour refused, and added that he hoped he would not have any more such cases in his Court.

Canvassers for Howells should be given a wide berth.

POSTAL PRANKS AND PLEASANTRIES.

GROSS CARELESSNESS COMMITTED WITH IMPUNITY.

A correspondent tells us that on November 28th, at 3.9 p.m., he sent a telegram from Ipswich to his wife at Sheffield. The street number, 250, was clearly written on the envelope, but the messenger put it into the letter-box next door, and as the occupants did not happen to look there until 9 o'clock the following morning, the wire was not discovered until then. Having no reply, our friend wired again on the 29th, his message arriving in Sheffield at 2.20. In this case, also, the address on the envelope was clear, but it would have been put into the letter-box of No. 252 had the lady for whom it was intended not seen the messenger and, expecting a telegram, asked him what name and number he required. In view of this scandalous carelessness, the Postmaster at Sheffield was communicated with, but the only reparation was a request for the filling in of a blue form and the information that "The Postmaster-General is not liable for any loss or damage which may be incurred or sustained by reason or on account of any mistake or default in the transmission or delivery of a telegram." And this is as far as the matter has gone, though our correspondent was obliged to return home, causing him to lose two days' work and to pay 14s. for railway fare. It was not dark when the boy was sent out with the wires—in addition to which the front doors are at least twelve yards apart.

Our poor harassed reader tells us that this week he had a business letter, although properly addressed to 250, put in the letter-box of 350, thereby occasioning considerable delay. He asks if he has any claim. Here also the postal authorities have taken care to protect themselves against what should be the natural result of their carelessness, for the Postal Guide states that "The Postmaster-General is not legally liable for any loss or inconvenience which may arise from the loss, damage, delay, non-delivery or mis-delivery of anything sent by post, and he does not in any circumstances pay compensation in respect of unregistered letters, postcards, halfpenny packets, or newspapers." It will thus be seen what a fool Mrs. Pankhurst was making of herself when she said, "You can make the Government pay for every penny that is destroyed in the letter-boxes."

A SLOW "EXPRESS."

FROM LONG ACRE TO ST. BRIDE STREET IN A MONTH.

In our issue of November 9th appeared the following:—

> The Truth about the Czarevitch.—Private information from Russia enables us to be the first to reveal the true story of the Czarevitch's mysterious illness. It appears that it is all due to the abominable activities of the Eugenists. The idea of human sterilisation was greedily seized by the Nihilists, who suborned a nurse to carry out their designs. Doctors inform us that all the published symptoms bear out this statement. One theory is that the nurse was employed by someone acting in the interests of a certain Grand Duke, but we are assured that the Nihilists are the real culprits. Now we know why the Captain committed suicide. A slight accident to his charge would not have driven him to such an extremity, but his failure to guard against this disaster may well have rendered him desperate.

The *Daily Express* has apparently been looking up our old files, for on December 12th it published a startling Contents Bill, advertising a flaming article, head in "scare" type, of which the following is the gist:—

> The "illness" of the Czar's eight-year-old son, which has been surrounded with such mystery, is in reality a great tragedy. He is suffering from the effects of a wound made by a trusted attendant, who has since proved to be a Nihilist. The wound is of such a nature that the Czarevitch is incapable of continuing the line of succession to the throne of Russia. For this reason the appointment of an Heir Designate is being discussed in Court circles, inasmuch as the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, the Czar's only brother, renounced his rights on contracting a morganatic marriage. According to one authority the Heir Designate will be the Grand Duke Dmitri, the twenty-one-year-old son of the Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovitch and the Czar's cousin. He is to marry the Grand Duchess Olga.

"If you see it . .-. !"

"Bullets" is a Stupendous Success! Why?——

"REPRESENTING MESSRS. ——."

THE TRIALS OF A "COMMERCIAL."

BY ONE OF THEM.

Three thousand commercial travellers leave one provincial city every Monday morning. Just imagine the first day once spent by every one of these presumed salesmen. The blatant confidence—which vanishes in the face of the stony glare handed out by the first man he calls on. The new man starts out armed with a little bag of samples and a large supply of hope. He passes one imposing establishment, thinking he will try his 'prentice hand on a smaller man and call back. He hesitates before some smaller premises—wondering whether the plentiful array of "dummies" exhibited justifies a call, and eventually decides to make his first assault on the healthy-looking medium-class shop next door but one. He enters, a prosperous-looking lady smiles a welcome. The salesman hangs on to that look like a falling aviator clutching a hay stack. Getting the note of interrogation well into his voice he remarks "Mrs. Buyit?"

An affirmative smile rewards him. Planting his sample case on the counter, and handing his card to the proprietress, he produces his first sample, and eyes it with an air of positive affection, as he expatiates for twenty minutes on the superiority and cheapness of that particular article. Then steadily he talks his way through the whole of his samples, and just at the psychological moment, when he has brought the shopkeeper round, she remarks:

"Yes, that is really a good line, Mr.—er—Stickitt, I'm sure we should sell it (Mr. Stickitt mentally enters 20 gross); but, you see, I don't do the buying. My husband will be at home next Wednesday at 6.30, and if we haven't any in stock, and he likes it as well as I do, and he thinks the price right, then we might buy a little——"

"Great Feelings, Great Thoughts."

Manfully repressing the happy little thoughts that desire to come glibly from his tongue, he sadly repacks his samples, and with a pleasant—*pleasant*, mark you—"Good morning," makes an undignified exit. The next three calls result as follows:—"Buyer out," "refuses to be seen," "well stocked." At the fourth attempt he meets with a proprietor, who greets him as a long-lost brother. His samples are inspected with a most exhilarating eagerness. He leaves the office with a smile on his face at one page of his order book filled to his complete satisfaction. It suddenly occurs to him to look in the little book, kindly provided by his thoughtful employers, to see if he has managed to open a new account. He finds the name of the firm all too quickly. In red ink it greets him, "K. Mavourneen—Bad Debt."

With a sigh of resignation he begins to wonder whether commercial travelling really means booking orders. With a jaw set firm, and a get-an-order-or-perish look in his eye, he makes yet another attempt. The proprietor this time is a clean-looking, clean-shaven old gentleman, who eyes him over gold-rimmed glasses, much as a duchess might inspect an insurance stamp. "Well!" snaps the old gentleman. A most uncompromising negative greets his every suggestion. The old gentleman eyes a sample handed to him as though it had an unpleasant odour. Just as poor Mr. Stickitt is about once again to abandon the assault, the bait is taken, "You may send me 30 X, 25 Y, and, if you can guarantee 'Z,' 25 of those!"

The "Drummer's" First "Tap."

Oh! you anglers who have landed big fish! You golfers who have made a record for the first hole! You can appreciate the feelings conjured up by his "first order." He has earned his dinner, justified his existence, and avoided the bogey of a blank day. Within three months a new confidence has enveloped him, more effectually than his raincoat. If Mr. Jones is out, Smith will be at home. If his opponent has booked "A." he will score with "B." If he is wise he develops a line of talk, spelling business and business only; tempting side tracks leading to politics, plays or pastimes are carefully avoided after the first two minutes' chat. He learns to deal with every temperament, and most tempers. He practises patience and secures sales, and will face cheerfully anything on the road with the exception of a deaf buyer.

REGISTRATION OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

JEDWOOD JUSTICE.

We are quite in accord with the principle of registration of Employment Agencies, but if the bogus concerns are to be sifted out we feel that the London County Council are not the body to do it. A few days ago we sat and listened very patiently to the Public Control Committee dealing with close upon 900 applications for licences for employment, theatrical, concert and variety artists' agencies. The Control Committee sit on a raised bench and form themselves into a judicial body. There they are, looking very stern while listening to the evidence brought before them as to why this or that person should not have a licence granted or renewed. Here is a man who has been a variety agent for twelve years. A complaint is brought against him by a young lady who alleges that after being charged a fee for tuition, she did not receive what she paid for. She certainly gives her evidence in a straightforward manner—but it is not on oath. The agent protests that he fulfilled his contract. Result: Judicial Control Committee refuse to renew the licence. And this in spite of the fact that in the whole course of the man's business career no other complaint had been brought against him.

Take another case. This time one of the L.C.C. officers is the complainant. He mentions that the applicant in one month sent fifteen persons from his office to a certain situation, and that all of them were unable to hold the position. The fee for each was fifteen shillings and the wages only 6s. a week. In this case the "bench," said to the man applying, "We are of opinion that you are not conducting your business properly." All the same, they renewed the licence.

Next we had an employment agency for females, and a lady inspector proved that in ten months the applicant had taken fees of 5s. from no less than 1,335 out-of-works and 2s. 6d. from 111 others. Only 197 had been suited. Result, licence renewed!

Now we put it to the Public Control Committee that such proceedings are farcical. One of their own inspectors proves that an agency is taking fees from the very poor on the pretence of finding them situations, and yet they allow the abuse to continue. What is the good of having inspectors?

It is a monstrous proceeding that "evidence" of this sort should be allowed to be given except on oath and before a properly-constituted Court. The present method may be within the powers given by Parliament, but in that case the sooner this authority is revoked the better.

The licensing of all employment agencies should at once come under the control of the police authorities.

MILITARY V. MILITANT.

[*A new Suffragette organisation—to be known as the "Qui Vive" Corps—whose members are pledged to abstain from militant action, has just been formed.*—DAILY PAPER.]

Not ours the hammer and the flint
To hurl in Amazonian strife;
Not ours the wild, menacing sprint
At Ministers, who flee for life;
Not ours the padlock and the chain—
Sach savage methods we disdain.

Not ours in pillar-box to pour
Corrosive fluids by the quart;
Such spiteful actions we deplore—
They're sure at last to lead to court:
Not ours the hateful, forceful feed—
Such drastic treatment we don't need.

Our Corps is neither "Pank" nor "Peth,"
More subtle and refined *our* ways;
Our system is to hold the breath,
Keep heedful ears and watchful gaze:
In short, the Vote we shall achieve
By being on the strict Qui Vive!

W. M.

Because it is a STRAIGHT Competition.

LETTERS TO SANTA CLAUS.

SUITABLE SUGGESTIONS FOR CELEBRITIES' STOCKINGS.

By Greatrex Newman.

About this time of the year, many of our contemporaries publish letters addressed to "Santa Claus," which have been written by very young youngsters, containing suggestions as to what presents they would most like to find in their stockings on Christmas morning. Not to be out of the fashion, we give a few of these juvenile epistles, which have been brought to our notice:—

Master Herby Asquith:

Dear Mr. Santa Claus,—I, and a few of my little playmates, are getting up a concert in aid of the "Four Hundred a Year" Fund, for which we are now rehearsing a screaming farce, entitled "Business."

Our old "Platform" has got badly damaged at some of the by-elections, but we are trying to patch it up, and I am writing this to ask if you would give us a few new Planks? Please don't send any of the "Insurance" sort.

Yours obediently,
Herbert.

Master Harry Lauder:

D'yer ken Santa McClaus,—I dinna wan ta put ye ta the trouble o' purchasing any wee thing specially for me, the noo. *Just send the bawbees instead!*

Harry.

Master Lloydie George:

Dear Santy,—Indeed to goodness, but do you happen to know of a dictionary that contains any adjectives and expressions that I've never heard of?

By the way, my little friend Bony Law, would be *so* pleased if you would give him a respirator, to wear when he's making his speeches. Yess, yess, whateffer!

Lloydie.

Little Christie Pankhurst:

Santa Claus,—I am not going to address you as "*dear* Santa Claus"—because mother says you're a *man!*

I could do with any of the following:—Axes, hammers, tins of varnish, vitriol, petrol, knives, bombs, whips, handbells, and assorted brick-ends.

Of course, you know I'm in Paris at present, but I'm sending one of my stockings over to the Offices of the Union.

Yours in the Cause,
Christabel Pankhurst.

Masters Winnie Churchill and Freddy Smith:

S. Claus, Esq.

Dear Sir,—As we are going to play together in future, will you please send us a present between us—or rather, send *two* fastened together.

What we should most like, is a big bottle of "Thatcho"—so that we can both grow whiskers, in order to look older.

We *hate* being called "*kids*"!

Trusting you will see your way to oblige, and thanking you in anticipation,

Yours in earnest,
Winston S. Churchill.
F. E. Smith.

"BULLETS" BIG BOOM.

£1,000 A WEEK IN PRIZES.

Our popular "Bullets" Competition is still breaking all records. And once again we are making considerable increases in our prize list. This week we are giving prizes to the total value of over

One Thousand Pounds!

The average level of merit in this competition has been exceptionally high. We have therefore decided to make a very much larger number of awards than heretofore. Accordingly we are giving this week over three thousand cash and other valuable prizes. This gives the average competitor an excellent opportunity of winning. The largely increased number of our cash prizes should prove very opportune at this time of the year, when extra pocket-money is so very acceptable. "Bullets" is the best judged and most attractive of all competitions and offers a more generous prize-list than any other.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCXXV.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

SHALL EIGHT CHILDREN STARVE AT CHRISTMAS?

A poor family exists near Dover. The father and mother are most respectable, clean people, the man a hard-working and honest fellow. The mother is unfortunately "eaten up" with rheumatism, which prevents her working and thus helping towards the maintenance of her baby and seven other children; her hands are shocking to look at. The father, when he does get a full week's work, earns about 13s., out of which has to be found: rent, 2s. 6d., club money, 8d. (this club, however, is only for sickness and death benefits), and coal 1s. 5d., leaving but 8s. 5d. for food for eight children and two adults. But even such a pittance it is often impossible for him to earn. The eldest girl and boy will in a few months' time be able to go out to work, which will be a great relief to the family, but in the meantime the children get nothing more than bread. They are all smart-looking little bodies, and as well cared for and looked after as is possible in the sad circumstances, but they need nourishing food. The grandmother, of 86, gets her Old Age Pension, but the little she can do is of scant help to so large a circle. These poor people have had to part with almost all they possessed, so that now there is comparatively no home left.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:

CCXIX.—"Mary Deborah," 1s.

CCXX.—"Mary Deborah," 1s.

CCXXI.—"Mary Deborah," 1s.; R. B. T. (Brussels), 3s. 11d.

CCXXII.—"Mary Deborah," 1s.; W. D., 20s.; P. O. F., 1s. 6d.; "Glavin," 3s.

CCXXIII.—"Mary Deborah," 1s; "Little Pilper," 2s.; T. B., 1s.; H. K., 2s.; J. H. N., 1s. 8d.; "Non Greek," 2s. 6d.

CCXXIV.—J. H. N., 1s. 2d.; "Fipp," 1s.; A. W. S., 2s. 6d.; B. M. G., 2s.; P. G., 1s.; J. L., 1s.; "Club Surplus," 3s.; A. J. E. S., 4s.; T. H. S., 10s.; W. B., 5s.; "Ivy Mary," 1s.; P. J., 5s.; A. T., 3s.; "Sweated," 2s.; G. E. F., 3s.; D. R., 2s.; J. S., 2s. 6d.; "Rags," 5s.; A. J., 6d.; "A Neighbour," 5s.; "*Pro pelle cutem*," 2s. 6d.

Two of the competitors in our "Bullets" Competition—one desiring to be described as "A Pitlochry Reader" and the other as "Anonymous"—who have succeeded in winning turkeys, have very kindly presented them to our "Human Documents." We have, therefore, had much pleasure in allotting them to Nos. CCXXIII. and CCXXIV.

OUR COLLECTING BOXES.

By the kindness of many of our readers we are enabled to add to our "Human Document" fund by means of collecting boxes, which they are good enough to place on their premises. We shall be glad to hear from others.

London.—M. E. Newschwander, Charing Cross Hotel, 3d.; Messrs. Cohen and Co., 446, Strand, 1½d.; Mr. F. Vesco, 2, "Carlisle Arms," Bateman St., W., 3½d.; Mr. A. McDonald, "Crown and Appletree," 37, Berwick St., W., 6d.; Mr. A. Bellatti, Sadlers, Swallow St., W., 2d.; Mr. J. Neal, "Blue Posts," 54, Charlotte St., W., 1s. 8d.; Mr. H. Rogerson, 10, King St., Portman Sq., 6d.; Mrs. Bennett, "Coach and Horses," Bruton St., W., 2s. 0½d.; Messrs. T. Claxton and Sons, 2, Gordon Mansions, Tottenham Court Rd., 4d.; Mr. J. Gomm, "Bedford Arms," 28, Blandford St., Marylebone, 6d.; Mr. W. M. Pantaney, "The Alma," 175, Westbourne Grove, 1s 2½d.; Messrs. M. Harris and Co., 10, Marble Arch, 4d.; "Teddy Bear," "The Angel," High St., Bloomsbury, 1d.; Mr. C. Besser, "Black Horse," 19, Tottenham Court Road, 3½d.; Mr. W. H. Ampleford, "Adam and Eve," Kensington, 7d.; Mr. F. Costa, "The West End Hotel," Coventry St., 1s. 7½d.; Mr. C. W. Oaten, Messrs. Curzon Bros., 133, Oxford St., 6d.; Mr. E. H. Gilbert, "Crown Hotel," High St., Kensington, 5d.; Mr. G. W. H. Pryer, "Black Lion," Bayswater Rd., 1s.; Mr. W. E. Perry, "Blue Posts," Tottenham Court Rd., 10½d.; Mr. T. Matcham, 80, Richmond Rd, Bayswater, 1d.; Mr. H. Pullen, "Churchill Arms," 119, Church St., Kensington, 6d.; "Sympathizers," £1 16s. 6d.; Messrs. S. Cohen and Co., 70, High St., Kensington, 4d.; Mr. E. Powell, 10, Strath Terrace, New Wandsworth, 2½d.; Messrs. Bridge and Co., 48, Brompton Rd., 1s. 2d.; Mr. E. Gilbert, 175, Upper Richmond Rd., 7d.; Mr. H. Bowden, 12, Lillie Rd., Fulham, 1½d.; Mr. E. T. Pimm, "Cock," Walham Green, 1s. 0½d.; Mr. Vernon Bishop, "Bunch of Grapes," Dering St., W., 1s. 6d.; Mr. Elmy, "Cedars Hotel," North End Rd., 1d.; Mme. Elizabeth, 911, Fulham Rd., 10d.

Birmingham.—Mr. T. H. Albrighton, "St. George's Tavern," Harford St., 1s. 3½d.; Mr. L. Bernstein, 5, Sherlock St., 6d.; Mr. J. Lowe, "Baltic Inn," Hope St., 1s.; Mr. E. Baker, 2, Aston Rd., 1d.; Mr. A. Turner, "Albion Hotel," Edmund St., 2d.

Total £2 19s. 5½d., of which we have allocated 20s. to CCVI., 9s. to CCX., and £1 10s. 5½d. to CCXXIV.

N.B.—This week's "Bullets" Competition closes a day earlier.

"If Gamage were my partner"

HOW THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HAS BROUGHT HIM TO SUCCESS CAN HELP OUR READERS THERE.

A. W. Gamage.

NOT so many years ago the man whose picture appears on this page was the proud proprietor of a half-share in a tiny little shop in Holborn with a frontage of not more than a few feet. Now that business occupies two huge blocks of buildings, and is being added to every day. And its owner has hundreds of other interests as well.

Moreover, this wonderful success is due to his own efforts. He has had no outside "influence" to help him on the road to success. His progress has been due to one thing and one thing only, to his business knowledge, the knowledge that tells one when to buy and how to sell, when to lay down new plant and when to retrench, that shows the way out of difficulties and the best means of seizing opportunities.

What would it mean to you?

What would it not mean to you if you could have such a man with you every day in your work to help you in *your* difficulties, to show you the way to seize *your* opportunities? You must realise that it might mean just the difference between just the mediocre measure of success that attends most hard-working men and the *real* success that comes to the few. Only a few days ago Andrew Carnegie, the great millionaire, told a reporter that "merely doing your duty is not sufficient. You must work with your head, and in addition to obeying orders *work out projects of your own.*"

Now, how are you to lay those projects, if you have no past experience to help you or no substitute for it, such as you would have if only you could have a man like Gamage for your partner?

How can you have it?

Do you know that you *can* have Gamage for your partner, at least as far as the benefit of his advice is concerned? And not only Gamage, but also Sir Joseph Lyons, the famous restauranteur; and Richard Burbidge, managing director of Harrods' Stores; and S. F. Edge, the famous expert on making and selling motor cars, who started as a cycle racer; and James Murray Allison, advertisement manager of *The Times*; and John Lawrie, managing director of William Whiteley, Ltd. Nor are these all, for you can have the advice of many other famous men, such, for example, as Mr. H. Simonis, the advertisement manager of the *Daily News and Leader* and one of the most able members of the advertising profession in Great Britain.

And the way you can get the benefit of these men's knowledge is by getting the "Business Encyclopædia" and by referring to it whenever a business difficulty faces you. Whatever your difficulty, however hard it seems, you will be able to solve it by the advice given in the "Business Encyclopædia." For it is written by men who have solved similar difficulties themselves, including all those mentioned above, and many more besides, whose names will be sent free upon request.

Is it any wonder, then, that over 50,000 successful business men and great business firms are already using the work? Can there be any doubt that you will be better able to succeed if you also have it by your side to give you advice in your difficulties and to lend you confidence in your decisions?

A Book on Business Free.

In this column you will find a special coupon for readers of JOHN BULL, which entitles you to a free copy of an interesting book on business, that may set you on the right road to business success, just as it has set many others of your fellow readers. In itself it is of considerable value to any business man, for it contains actual facsimile specimens, showing how to draw up important legal documents, such as wills, agreements, leases, indentures, etc., etc.

But—and this is its most vital point for you—it tells you also *all* about this great "Business Encyclopædia," the work that JOHN BULL describes as "probably the most valuable work that any business man could have." It is the only work that gives full and detailed information on all the problems that confront the business man during his work.

Whatever line of business you are in, whatever position you occupy in it, this work can prove invaluable to you if you will use it right. If you want to know about any point in book-keeping, the "Business Encyclopædia" will tell you. If you want to know about drawing up a balance-sheet, or a profit and loss account, you will find it here. If you want to know the law as it affects your own particular calling, if you want to know anything about manufacturing, if you want to learn all about loose leaf and card index systems, you can learn it here. You can learn, in fact, of any and every subject connected with business. Surely you realise the help this knowledge would mean.

It is only because 50,000 firms and business men are already using the work that we are able to offer to deliver it to any reader of JOHN BULL for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, the balance being paid in small monthly payments, while you are already using and benefiting by the work. But signing this coupon does not cost you anything.

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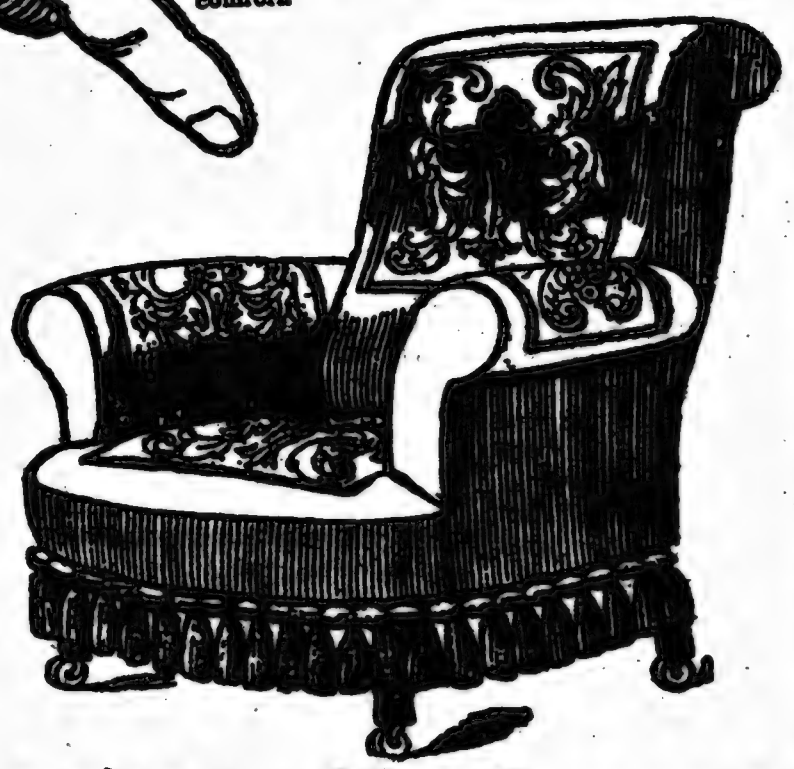

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J.B.

Neighbour: "Where's yer feyther, Jimmie?"
Jimmie: "'E's in 'The Blacksmith's Arms.'"
Neighbour: "Then run and tell 'im that his missus is in the lodger's arms!"

AN UNTRUE STORY.

By F. W. T.

The critics had called him "The Modern Dickens."

Now this great man sat at his desk and waited, pen in hand, for the Divine Afflatus to descend upon him. There was a story to finish before the last post went out; and so far, he had only thought of part of the title. He chewed his pen, but the Divine Afflatus was not out visiting.

"It comes," he said; "it comes. This is it," and he dipped his pen in the ink. Just at that moment a man stopped outside his window, drew a penny whistle from his pocket, and wiped it on his sleeve.

"This is the idea," said the author. "It is slowly shaping itself."

Then from the street:—

"The mistletoe hung in the castle hall."

"Damn!" said the author, and bit his pen.

"The holly bough hung on the old oak wall."

"Curse the fiend!" said the Peace and Goodwill Merchant. Then rang the bell for a servant.

"Call yonder poor fellow indoors," he said. "Call him by the fire, out of the bleak streets. Give him food. Stay! I myself will entertain him. 'Tis the season of Yule, when our hearts go out to the needy."

And he went downstairs and gave the man a mutton chop and some bread. "I will get you a foaming tankard of beer also," he said. "For this is Christmas, my friend. Wassail, my penny-whistling fellow, Wassail!" And he prepared a tankard of beer, and into it he poured a full bottle of poison, and stirred it up with his pen-holder. "Drink!" he said. "For at this season of the year," etc., etc., as per the Master of Gad's Hill. Then he went back to his story, carefully choosing another pen-holder.

Presently there was a thud upon the kitchen floor.

"Now perhaps I can get on," said the Peace and Goodwill monger.

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.

AN APPEAL FOR A LITTLE CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR THE POOR.

We again make an appeal to the generosity of our readers to enable us to distribute gifts of food, clothing, toys, etc., amongst the London poor. First, we want money with which to buy orders upon local butchers, bakers, grocers, and others, enabling the recipients to obtain food and take it to their own homes. Secondly, we want left-off clothing. This we will have carefully sorted out by willing hands and made into suitable "lots." Thirdly, we want toys for the little ones, to help to brighten their dismal homes at Christmas-time. We can also do with boxes of oranges, sweets, fruit, crackers—in short, anything likely to bring a little happiness, if only for a few days, into the homes of the poor. Gifts of money should be sent to the Editorial Offices, 93 and 94, Long Acre; presents in kind should be directed to the depot of the Fund, 171, Marc Street, London, N.E.

We thankfully acknowledge the following subscriptions:—

Mr. H Diamond (Lucerne) £50; A. E. A., £2 2s.; M. J. G., £2 2s.; "Nan" (Brighton), 20s.; "Mary Deborah," 5s.; "Anonymous," 10s.; "Goodwick," 1s.; "A Jew," 1s.; Mr. and Mrs. M., 2s.; "Fipp," 1s.; W. H. T., 2s. 6d.; A. P. P., 1s. 6d.; H. E., 6d.; A. W., 2s. 6d.; C. H., 5s.; A. A., 1s.; B. I. T., 1s.; Mr. and Mrs. T., 5s.; "Anon." 2s. 6d.; R. C., 2s. 6d.; R. A. C., 2s.; M. H. P., 2s.; E. C. D., 2s. 6d; E. A. G., 2s. 6d.; "Bulldog," 2s.; H. W. K., 2s. 6d.; A. M. C., 2s. 6d.; "Swiss Friend," 2s. 6d.; "Dorcas," 3s. 6d.; "Skeleton," 10s.; F. P. S., 2s. 6d.; M. G. D., 10s.; G. J. M. D., 1s.; J. J., 2s. The Proprietors of JOHN BULL and *Mrs. Bull*, £25; The Editor, £10.

200 Extra "Bullet" Prizes of 7s. 6d. are offered this week.

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To the Rt. Hon. Reginald McKenna, Home Office, Whitehall.

SIR,—If ever there was a proper case for the exercise of the Crown's prerogative of mercy it was surely that of William Beal, the wretched lad who was sent to his doom the other day for the murder of his sweetheart at West Ham.

You claim to have given careful attention to all the circumstances of the case. You knew and remembered that the murderer was but a lad of nineteen years. You knew, or had means of knowing, that he was swept away by a wild gust of that sex passion which youth can scarce control, and that yielding to some sudden mad impulse, he snatched an awful revenge for some fancied slight. You knew all these things. The last word remained with you. You refused to utter it. Your unspoken fiat has hurled this poor boy into the darkness.

Had you interposed to stay the hand of the avenger, you would have earned a silent blessing from every mother in the land, and an unuttered tribute of respect from every father's heart. You chose otherwise.

Thank God, the dread responsibility is yours—not mine.

JOHN BULL.

To the Lord Murray of Elibank, House of Lords.

MY DEAR MURRAY,—I cannot bring myself to address you in any more formal fashion, and I feel sure you would not desire it. Although you are now a real live lord, I cannot believe that you are in any way changed from the genial, jovial, hearty gentleman I knew in the House of Commons. By the bye, is it quite certain that you are a peer at all? That little hitch over the patent of nobility was awkward, wasn't it? Does it mean that you must go all through that weird, mediæval business of introduction over again? For your sake, I hope not. I am sure such mummery cannot be to your liking. It isn't a bit your style.

Anyway, I'm right glad you are back again in Parliament, even if only in the comparative seclusion of the Upper House. They tell me you are being sadly missed in the other place. There was no hanky-panky of snap divisions when you were about. Not much! But there will be a bigger job for you some day than "keeping a house."

JOHN BULL.

To W. H. Elkins, Esq., J.P., and E. J. Thatcher, Esq., J.P., Bristol.

GENTLEMEN,—It has been represented to me by many correspondents that the fine of £10 inflicted by your bench on the woman Hallen, of 5, Royal York Crescent, Clifton, is almost grotesquely inadequate punishment for her shocking cruelty to the poor little chap who was left in her charge by her brother—now in South Africa.

Hallen was an educated woman—a trained nurse and professional *masseuse*. What was the nature of her cruelty? She started by holding his hand in almost boiling water, and then proceeded to "cure" it by strapping his legs together, putting him on the bed, chaining his feet to the bedpost, sitting on his abdomen, and "working away at his injured hand," "massaging, rubbing, cutting down adhesions with a pen-knife, kicking him, and beating him with a stick and a ruler on various parts of his body." And this treatment went on from day to day until the boy fled terrified from the house and told the story of his sufferings. The doctor found "recent and painful" bruises on the child's arms, knee, hip, and buttocks, whilst the hand was "permanently deformed."

These are the salient facts, and I cannot find anything to condone them in the somewhat negative evidence that the woman had helped to put right the child's bad feet in South Africa, and that he was well nourished. Callous cruelty to children is, in itself, a lust complete and satisfying. I am glad, however, to say that there is not the slightest indication, as some of my correspondents suggest, that you have been influenced in your decision by the social position of the woman. I do feel, however, that a fine did not meet the case, and there I leave the matter.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. Archdall M. Hill, M.A., Rector of Petersfield.

MY DEAR RECTOR,—I learn from the parochial magazine that you are very busy up at the Rectory—which, when it is paid for, will have cost £1,600, won't it? I note that "the fund is still open," that "some £900 will have to be borrowed to pay for the house," and that until this amount is forthcoming you cannot say you have "a rectory belonging to the parish." By the way, can you tell me why rectories are not paid for on a cash basis?

Then there is the garden. It is to have a nice tennis ground, to be laid out at a cost of £150, and no doubt you will presently fix a fine day to send round your hat for the money. Meanwhile I perceive "it has been suggested that various trees should be planted by the different organisations in the parish,—*e.g.*, The Mothers' Union Tree, the Men's Society Tree, the Choir's Tree, the St. Mary Tree, etc., in order that pride in the development of the grounds may be of parochial interest in the days to come." It is a bright idea, and one day when I come to Petersfield I trust to see the Mothers' Union sitting under one tree and the Men's Society under another, with the rest of the parish looking over the garden wall.

I have as little doubt as you have, my dear rector, that "Mrs. Hill will, when established in the house, gladly welcome gifts for her garden. And the rector, nothing if not practical, will welcome apple and other fruit trees." What I am anxious to know is whether there is anything else you would like. For instance, may I request somebody in the parish to present you with a motor car, a perambulator—and a permanent supply of ready-made sermons?

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Herbert Samuel, M.P., Postmaster-General, House of Commons.

SIR,—Permit me to call your official attention to the case of Dorothy Perkins, a late assistant of the Tooting Graveney Post Office, committed for trial by the Bow Street magistrate on a charge of forging an entry in a Post Office Savings Bank book and a money order. One of the witnesses, a Mr. Henry Head, formerly Postmaster of the Stourville sub-Post Office, stated that his wife, the Postmistress, was suspected of these offences, and as a consequence his appointment, worth £44 a year, was taken from him. It may not be advisable, sir, for you to reconsider the decision against Mr. Head with a view to his reinstatement or his nomination to some post of equal value until the result of the trial of Perkins. In a certain event, however—considering the circumstances, perhaps in *any* event,—I venture to think that this justice is due to him not only to clear him of suspicion, but to compensate him for the wrong which has been done to him. To be suspected in the Postal service is to be damned. This being so, it is evident that the harsher the suspect code the more swiftly and the more thoroughly should the Postmaster General, when the facts justify it, make the best reparation within his power.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, P.C., M.P.

DEAR VETERAN,—So sorry to hear of your unlucky spill in the hunting-field—the second within twelve months. All your old friends, and they are legion, will unite in wishing you speedy restoration to health—and to Westminster.

Do please take care of yourself in future. You are almost the only representative of good old-fashioned Toryism left, and your departure would deprive the House of one of its most picturesque figures. Amid so much of sham and make-believe, we can ill spare a man who knows his mind and speaks it with honesty and forthrightness.

Here's to your good health!

JOHN BULL.

To Cripps, K.C., London.

Rumour that silence is golden must be all footle, judging by what you must have earned by your twelve-days' speech before Telephone Inquiry Commission. Take a voice jujube.

BULL.

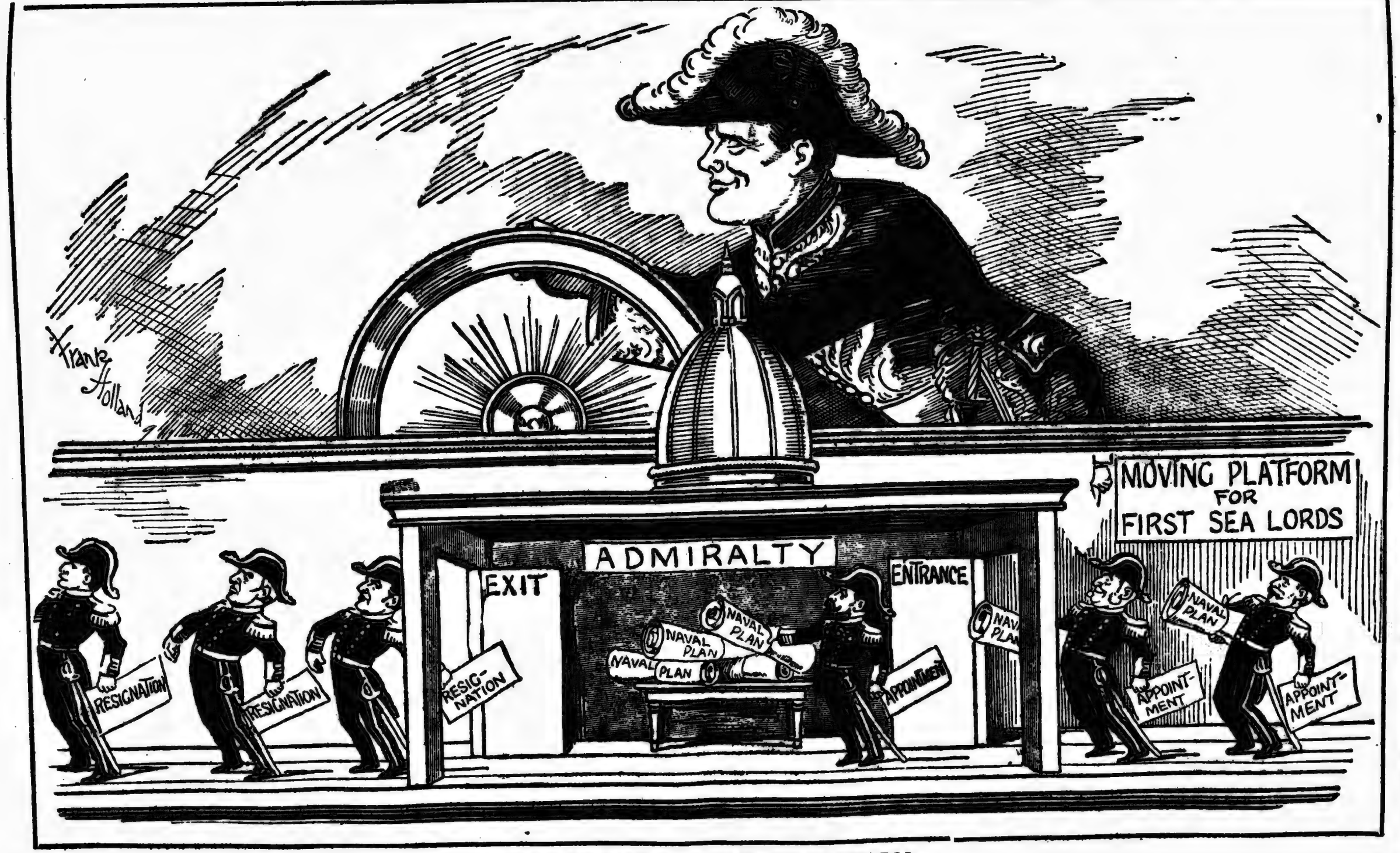
To Peace Delegates, St. James's Palace.

Hearty welcome to London, which hope you will find peaceful city. Please note one of its social customs is shaking hands.

BULL.

Over 3,000 Valuable "Bulleta" Prizes to be Won. See page 862.

KEEPING THEM "GOING."



THE ADMIRALTY MOVING PLATFORM.

THE LATEST PHASE.

A PICTURE OF POSSIBILITIES.

By Richard Morton.

The select suburban road down which she paced consisted of two long lines of villa residences. At the end, it was crossed by a main thoroughfare of shops.

But this girl did not seem to be in a shopping mood. She looked too serious, too stern, too worried.

Misguided, was she? Perhaps so; perhaps foolish as well, even senseless, but there is no denying the fact that she was in earnest—in deadly earnest. She had wrought herself to believe in certain things, she had imbibed certain principles until she was ready to immolate herself for the sake of them.

So she stood still for a brief moment or two at the corner of the private road and the High Street, pausing just by the crimson fire-alarm with its great glass eye, gleaming in the reflected glow of electric lamps.

She looked around her, half furtively, half defiantly. She would rather not be seen to do that which she had come to do, but she would do it under the eyes of the law itself if necessary.

So far as she could see, nobody was watching her. She raised her arm, crooked her elbow, and drove that elbow crash through the guarding glass of the fire-alarm. Turning swiftly, she seized the brass knob of the alarm and tugged violently at it, twice or thrice.

Then, trembling with excitement, but endeavouring to affect unconcern, she started to stroll away.

But a stalwart policeman was crossing the road with big strides. "Is it a fire, miss?" he asked.

"Yes," she stammered. Perhaps it was the first lie she had ever told.

"Is it at your house?"

"No," she said. And the first lie led to more. "Somebody asked me to give the alarm—a maid-servant, I think." She started again to walk away.

"I think you had better wait here till the engine comes," said the policeman. "Then you can tell them where the fire is."

The truth had to come out. She could hold it back no longer. "There isn't any fire," she cried. "You must lock me up if you wish to. I did it for the Cause."

* * *

The engine came flying to that alarm at the corner, the policeman explained matters, and led the girl to the police-station.

The firemen took their engine back to their quarters. The man they had left in charge came racing along the street to meet them. "Telephone message!" he yelled. "Oil-shop blazing in Tenement Street. Three lives in danger. Quick!"

The men went "quick!"—as quickly as they knew how. . . . But they were three minutes too late.

A large and representative gathering of well-known scientists, food specialists, and public men took place last week at the Savoy Hotel, London, to learn from Mr. Sandow and his experts the first public details, and witness a series of most interesting practical demonstrations of what is claimed to be an epoch-making discovery affecting the baking of our bread, cakes, and pastries. In an interesting speech he said that it was for the convenience of the public that he decided to term this wonderful new product "Baking Powder," but the ingredients and their combined action were worthy of a far more romantic title. "This baking compound," he continued, "not only simplifies the daily tasks of the housewife, makes bread, cake, or pastry lighter and more digestible, but at the same time enables the housewife to introduce into her bread, cakes or pastry nutritious elements, the value of which, from a brain and body building point of view, cannot be too highly estimated, and, what seems most wonderful, by its use six loaves or cakes can be made from the same amount of ingredients as are at present used for only five—a 20 per cent. food economy."

Upon another page will be found an announcement by the well-known firm of whisky distillers, Messrs. R. F. McLeod and Co., of Maryhill, Glasgow, who are offering cases and single bottles of their speciality for festive purposes. Certainly no more appropriate or acceptable present for the average man could be selected than a few bottles of "Three Thistle," "Tartan Label," or "Old Mac."

POTTED POLITICAL PANTOS.

HALF A HOG IS BETTER THAN NO HOGMANAY.

Scene: *The Room of the Scotch Radical Whip in the House of Commons.*

Enter excited and angrily-gesticulating crowd of Scotch Radical M.P.'s.

Chorus of Scotch Radical M.P.'s:

Did you no heer? The Hoose will rise
For ten dees only! Scotland cries
Indeegnant, for a langer terrrm—
We'll get it, if we're verra firrrm.
Ten dees at Christmas? Hoot! Awa!
We'll langer hae, or none at a'!
Shall we frae Bonnie Scatland stray
An' lose the Feast of Hogmanay?
Not whiles oor Scottish bluid rins warrm,
Not whiles there's strength in each richt arrm!
Not whiles there's whusky o'er the Tweed—
It's no'—it *canna* be—agreed!

Enter Scotch Radical Whip:

Friends, dinna mak sic a noise, I pray,
For what, after all, is Hogmanay
Compared wi' the Party's interest?
Of your loyalty this will be a test.
Through a strenuous session ye hae stood
By the Premier's side for Scotland's guid:
Wad ye those labours throw away
For the sake o' the Feast o' Hogmanay?

Chorus of Scotch Radical M.P.'s:

Na, na; oor minds we hae made up;
An' though ye are the Scottish Whup,
We'll no' be moved by ought ye say
Tae miss the Feast o' Hogmanay.
The steamin' haggis, ye s'ould know,
We ~~wull~~ on no account forego;
The sup o' whusky, an' the scone,
To which the Scottish stomach's prone,
Are more to us than Party ties
Upon the nicht the auld yeer dies.

Enter Prime Minister:

What's this I hear? That you, my Scottish friends
On whom the Government in part depends,
Are not content with ten days' holiday,
And will not miss the Feast of Hogmanay?
Shame on you, for a pack of Scottish loons
Who would thus selfishly forego the boons
The Government has laboured to bestow
On Scotland, whether liked by her or no.

Chorus of Scotch Radical M.P.'s:

That's verra weel; but Hogmanay
A Scottish institution is
From which no Scot s'ould stay away,
Except on verra airgent biz.

The Prime Minister:

All right; the consequences then be on your head,
And they'll be such as you were wise to dread.
The Lords' amendments to the Scottish Bill
(You know the one) run counter to your will:
These same amendments—you may do your worst—
Shall be discussed upon the Thirty-first.
If you're not present on that fateful day,
The Lords, I rather fear, will have their way.

Chorus of Scotch Radical M.P.'s:

Oh, verra weel, we will submit,
Though hating the idea of it;
For bitter is the price we pay—
Missing the Feast of Hogmanay!

Scotch Radical Whip:

Cheer up! We'll organise a little feast
Here in ma room, on Hogmanay nicht neist;
We'll hae a haggis an' some whusky too,
And drink tae Bonnie Scatland till a's blue!

[*Exeunt omnes, cheering.*]

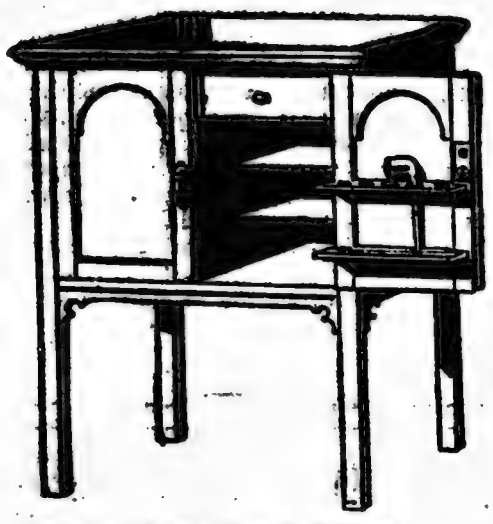
Still on the Increase. £1,000 for "Bullets" this week.

Presents that Please

In our showrooms we have a fine stock of artistic and useful Christmas Presents—gifts that will not only be appreciated this Christmas but will give pleasure for years to come.

Our Ideal Payment System

Everything is marked in plain figures at cash prices which represent honest value. Any article can be purchased on the Midland Furniture Company's Ideal Payment System, free of interest, without deposit and without charge.



Well-made Smoker's Cabinet, fitted inside for cigars, cigarettes, pipes, tobacco, etc.

£2 : 2 : 0

Comfortable large-size Easy Chair, Spring Stuffed, Upholstered in any colour Corduroy Velvet.

25/-

10 % discount FOR CASH.

NO CHARGE FOR CREDIT.

Large-size Oak Bookcase, beautifully carved and finished in Fumed, Black or Antique colour.

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£10 ...	£0	6	0
£20 ...	0	11	0
£50 ...	1	8	0
£100 ...	2	5	0
£200 ...	4	10	0
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In order that Country Customers may make a personal selection we pay their fares to town on all orders of £20 and upwards. Country orders packed and delivered free.

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A complete Furnishing Guide, beautifully illustrated and containing several coloured plates. Sent post free on application. Write for a copy to-day.

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We have in this department alone a stock valued at considerably over £10,000. A special catalogue is issued weekly, and will be forwarded post free on application.

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BEHIND THE SCENES.

By M. Clement Scott.

Viewed through opera glasses with commercial lenses, Mr. Macdonald Hastings' play at the Queen's Theatre is not exactly one I should have selected, but from the artistic point "The Tide" is certainly extremely interesting and at moments thrilling. As I told you weeks ago, the idea is strongly suggestive of the French drama, "L'Autre Danger," but I doubt if the theme—a woman's wild passion for maternity—will reach the hearts of the modern "shrieking sisters" who clamour for the power of the stronger sex, and commit deeds of violence because they haven't attained their object.

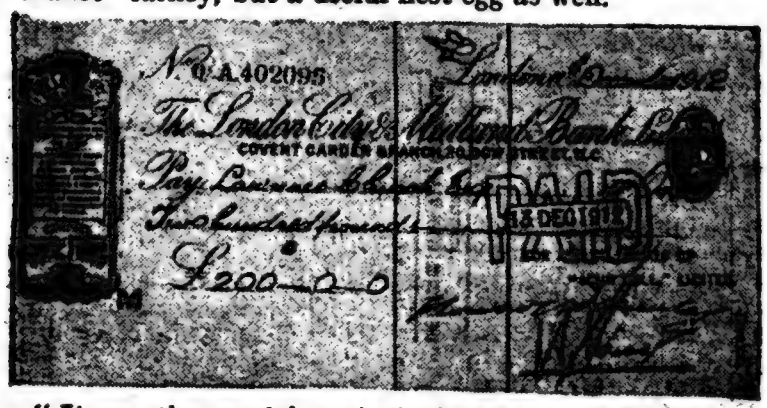
Be this as it may, "The Tide," when the lengthy speeches are curtailed and the storm effect in the last act subdued so as to enable people to hear what the actors and actresses are talking about—can be vastly improved upon. It has served one purpose at all events, and that is Mr. Hastings has given Miss Ethel Warwick, Miss Muriel Martin Harvey, Miss Cicely Hamilton, and Mr. Norman Trevor magnificent chances for acting, and bravely they come through the trying ordeal. Mr. Macdonald Hastings has great dramatic instinct, he is a humourist, but at present he is too much of a journalist to shine brilliantly as a playwright. Some of those lengthy tirades of his could be shortened to less than half, without missing a single point. Talk, and aimless talk at that, becomes very tedious on the stage—or anywhere else for the matter of that.

One of the loveliest entertainments for the children ever put upon the English stage is "Where the Rainbow Ends." The revival at the Garrick has already caught on, and the principal characters are again in the able hands of that little genius of a boy actor, young Philip Tonge, the ethereal child dancer, Mavis Yorke, and the writers of the fairy story, Clifford Mills and John Ramsay, otherwise known to the public as Reginald Owen and Lydia Bilbrooke, who in real life are Mr. and Mrs. Reggie Owen.

"BULLETS" NO. 8 WINNER.

VALUABLE ADVICE BY A WINNER OF £200.

Mr. Lawrence Church, of Tonbridge, Kent, the winner of our Eighth "Bullets" Competition, has favoured us with the following interesting particulars:—"The 'Bullet' which won the magnificent prize of £200 represented only my third attempt. My first try—in No. 6—realised a consolation prize. I was really angling for a turkey at Christmas—now I shall not only be able to have my 'Bullet' turkey, but a useful nest-egg as well.



"It was the careful method of judging 'Bullets' which first induced me to enter the competition. 'Bullets' is not only a fascinating pastime, but a valuable means of adding to one's general intelligence. It makes one more observant to catch the humour which occurs daily in his walk through life. Competitors would profit by making a note of anything which occurs to them as humorous or of philosophical value, and refer to it when reading through the examples set: this method would tend to originality.

"I sincerely wish all my fellow-competitors success, and I feel sure that their efforts will be carefully judged, and that the aim of their 'Bullets' will not be missed. My motto is, concentrate, persevere, and be original."

"I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE FREE PRESCRIPTION."

"THERE IS NOTHING LIKE IT FOR PAIN."

"It was a lucky day for me when I saw in your columns the free prescription that cured Mr. Williams. At the time I was down with influenza, and aching in every bone in my body. One doctor said the pains were Neuralgia, while at the hospital they told me they were Neuritis. Taking medicine was agony to me, as it so affected my heart. I had the prescription filled the same night, and in the morning I was up, my cold was gone, my heart normal and though I had a little pain during the day, I have not had it since. I gave it to my mate and he tells me that he has lost his Rheumatism and Lumbago.

"The prescription was this: Go to the nearest chemist's shop and get 60 grains of Kephaldol in tablet form. Take two tablets at once, and then one every hour until the pain is gone. I took three when I went to bed, and broke up my cold."

Mr. Johnson Hicks, Newcastle.

Regaining Lost Beauty.

Mlle. Blanche Corday.

If women would stop using cosmetics, and use a little more common sense, they could regain and retain their youthful complexions indefinitely. Bad complexions are generally caused by the failure of the skin to gradually throw off its outer coating as nature intends it to do. The result is that the outer veil of half dead skin sticks on till it is hopelessly stained and soiled.

The sensible thing to do, then, is to actually remove this ugly outer complexion. This may be done quickly and safely by merely applying to the face some good, pure jettaline. This substance, which is not at all unpleasant to use, seems to quickly remove the devitalized outer complexion, thus revealing the beautiful firm young skin just underneath.

If you wish to try this simple process, you need only get about 3s. 6d. worth of jettaline from your apothecary, and apply it for a few nights just before retiring, as you would cold cream. With a younger and prettier face the heart is much lighter, let me assure you.

BUCHANAN'S WHISKY

"BLACK —&— WHITE"

The Highest Standard of QUALITY.

HOW TO LIVE LONG

Government statistics amply prove that Annuitants are the longest-lived people. It therefore behoves you to

BUY AN ANNUITY

if you would enjoy long life and freedom from care and anxiety in your old age. The

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Offers better terms than can be obtained elsewhere. Annuitants and Assurers are amply secured under the stringent regulations demanded by the Canadian Government.

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NAME_____

J.B. ADDRESS_____

A Celebrated Violiniste.

Nervous Fatigue, Headaches, Languor—

The *power to excel*, the *confidence* which ensures her brilliant successes, says the talented violinist, Miss Sybil Keymer, is entirely due to her abundance of vigorous *nerve force* created by Phosferine. How greatly the numerous distinctions and triumphant career of this accomplished musician are promoted by the *brain energy* and *physical stamina* developed by Phosferine, is evident from Miss Keymer's admission that the tonic "enabled me to *do myself justice.*" This *power* to excel, this *ability* to make *perfect use* of her skill, depends upon the marvellous *control* and *steadiness* of the *muscle nerves* Phosferine has given her, and to which she owes the entrancing tone and quality of her musical renditions. Naturally, this energising effect of Phosferine was accompanied by the disappearance of the headaches, listlessness, and fatigue, which were the bane of her public appearances, and it is this happy outcome which impels Miss Keymer to testify to the exceptional advantages to be derived from Phosferine.

Promptly Remedied.

Miss Sybil Keymer, "Riversmere," Albany Road, Leighton Buzzard, writes: "I think I should inform you that I have recently derived very great benefit from the use of Phosferine. In the course of my profession I have to travel a good deal in getting to my various concerts, and I find that since using Phosferine I am never troubled with the headaches and listlessness which follow a long railway journey, particularly during hot weather. This is of very great importance to me, as frequently only a very little time elapses between reaching my destination and the commencement of a concert, and it is such a relief to feel fresh and ready for playing in public undisturbed by the fatigues of long travelling. It is because I feel that Phosferine enables me to do myself justice as a violinist, preventing any of the unsteadiness of the muscle nerves, which is so harmful to tone and quality, that I confidently commend the tonic at every opportunity."—July 11, 1912.

PHOSFERINE

GREATEST OF ALL TONICS.

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

NEURALGIA	MATERNITY WEAKNESS	INFLUENZA
RHEUMATISM	NERVOUS HEADACHES	HYSTERIA
BRAIN-FAG	SLEEPLESSNESS	EXHAUSTION
LASSITUDE	PREMATURE DECAY	MALARIA
INDIGESTION	ANÆMIA NEURITIS	NERVOUSNESS

And all disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

The Royal Tonic

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The Royal Family
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H.I.M. The Dowager Empress of Russia
H.M. the King of Greece
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And the Principal Royalty and Aristocracy throughout the World

The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1½ size

If you would be

HEALTHY & HAPPY

and "always

MERRY & BRIGHT"

You cannot be healthy or happy if you are suffering from indigestion. When that is your condition only a part of the food you eat is being used to nourish and strengthen your body. The rest of it is lying undigested in your stomach, fermenting and giving off gases that injure your whole system. The existence of bad digestion is seen in a variety of ways. You may have pains in the chest and stomach after eating, biliousness, headaches, giddiness, sleepiness, coated tongue, and a poor appetite. These symptoms are present because your stomach is not in condition to properly perform its allotted task. To be healthy and happy, to be "always merry and bright," you must remove the distressing and dangerous symptoms of indigestion by taking Mother Seigel's Syrup. It will make you healthy, active and strong. Tens of thousands of people in the past forty years have found it a safe household remedy. To-day it is well known in thousands of homes, all round the world, as a preventive remedy for many stomach disorders. Get a bottle and try it for your case. Every dose is a step towards good health.

Take

MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP

AND YOU'LL FEEL "AS FIT AS A FIDDLE."

The 2/6 Bottle contains 3 times as much as the 1/1½ size. Also in tablet form, 2/9.

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"THREE THISTLE"	6 years old	3/6 per bottle.	40/- per doz.
"TARTAN LABEL"	8 " "	4/- " "	46/- " "
"OLD MAC"	Special Liqueur	4/6 " "	52/- " "

Carriage Paid. Cash with Order.

R. F. McLEOD & Co., MARYHILL, GLASGOW.

Established 1872.

Keep your Boys at Home.

Your boys will be delighted with a Billiard Table in the home. No matter how small your room is, there is a Riley Table to fit it. RILEY'S MINIATURE BILLIARD TABLES give a perfect game—so truly are they proportioned. Prices from £3/7/6. The 6ft. 4in size at £5/5/0 is suitable for most rooms. Riley's Combine Billiard and Dining Tables from £13/10/0. Cash or easy payments. These prices include all accessories.

FREE on receipt of postcard full detailed illustrated catalogue of Billiard and Dining Tables.

E. J. Riley, Ltd., Imperial Mills, **Accrington.**

S20 LONDON SHOWROOMS: 147, ALDERSGATE ST., E.C.

Bull's Eyes.

Notes of Interrogation:—

Isn't it rather a "Grey" outlook for Turkey?
How long will the Peace Conference justify its name?
Doesn't Winston mean to be "top sea-dog"?
Shouldn't an engine-driver be able to "carry his load"?
Are they calling him the Inebriates' Home Secretary now?
Shouldn't the suffragette "movement" be stopped?
Won't the Imperial Council be made a good "job" of?
Isn't the "boom" in trade nearly all "sound"?
Aren't the motor-buses "taking life" too strenuously?
Have you a "shot" in your locker? See page 862.

John Bull's Christmas Boxes:—

To Mr. Asquith.—Something Warm for Defeat.
To Mr. Lansbury.—A Cross-Bow from the Stone Age.
To the Sultan of Turkey.—A new *Era*.
To Mr. Alfred Butt.—A Venetian Blind.
To Mr. Barclay Gammon.—Some volumes of Bacon.
To Mr. Winston Churchill.—A Book-rest.
To Mr. Bonar Law.—Party Games.
To Sir R. Ball.—An evening *Star*.
To the Kaiser.—Hoch (treble strength).
To Sir Herbert Tree.—A golden Drake.

Merely Rumours:—

That the war correspondents, on their return, have arranged to establish a school of fiction.

That Turkish delight is very plentiful in Constantinople.

That the dailies will give away no more crackers.

That young men are preferring rifle ranges to football.

That a telephone, ordered twelve months ago, will soon be installed.

That Sir Edward Grey congratulated Lord Roberts privately on the recent speech.

That the Crown Prince of Germany's fall was caused through riding the high horse.

That Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence are so conscience-stricken that they have decided to devote the rest of their lives to replacing all broken windows—free!

Favourite Songs—with Variations:—

For Lovers—"In the Shadows."
For Cricketers—"Tom Bowling."
For Musicians—"Get your Hair Cut."
For Editors of Dailies—"Strike the Lyre."
For Mr. Butt, of the Palace—"O Listen to the Banned."
For Trade Unionists—"'Twas in Trafalgar Square."
For Airmen—"The Flight of Ages."
For Lord Howard de Walden—"Daddy."
For Lord Roberts—"Let me like a Soldier Fall."
For Mr. George Edwardes—"I'm off to Phil-Adelphi."
For Opticians—"Your Eyes have Told Me All."
For Tramps—"The Rag-time Waltz."
For Phonograph Makers—"The Mocking Bird."
For Oil Company Promoters—"Ta-ra-ra Boom de-ay."
For "Bullets" Competitors—"Everybody's Doing It."

"The tables are turned," as the medium said.

"Detective up a tree," we read. Nothing new.

"Winter's Pie," with its full plates, is very good fare.

"Men have woo'd me in vain," as the lady's pocket simpered.

"I'm sweet on you," as the icing remarked to the wedding-cake.

"Sowing the wind," as the cyclist said when he inflated his tyre.

"It's fancy, meeting you," as the sea said to the sky at the horizon.

"It isn't amiss," as the shortsighted man said of the lady in bloomers.

"Just a friendly rubber," as the savages said when their noses met.

A certain judge says an engagement ring is not a necessity. No; it is only a foolery.

Some November green peas have been sent to the *Mail*. We have been giving Lord Northcliffe beans.

No contemporary holds forth on the wonder of primroses in November. We could find some daisies all the year round.

"A Little Fowl Play," at the Coliseum, should have a good run.

"Will you step into the drawing-room?" as the dentist observed to his patient.

"Done on our own premises," as the man exclaimed when his lodgers shot the moon.

At Grimsby, a fish cart was used as a bridal coach. A symbol doubtless, of a good catch.

"Lion in a wine shop," we read. Heavy drinkers often see one popping out of the wood.

A prisoner escaped at Taunton by removing a flagstone. But the warders soon put the curb on.

"I lie in weight," as the angler murmured to himself after he had described his record "catch."

"New laid," as the grocer observed to his conscience when he laid the French eggs in the window.

Cow-catchers are proposed for motor-'buses. In the meantime we must put up with the crumpled horn.

"Live and let live," as the humane man observed when he rescued the Gorgonzola from his friend.

"A-weigh with melancholy," as the coal merchant sobbed when compelled to give 28lb. to the quarter.

The story that three persons have been poisoned by snuff, in Switzerland, is probably a tish-oo of lies.

"You'll have to mind your P's and Q's," as the judge observed to the PQ-liar people he had just sentenced.

Charwomen of the Customs House demand an increase in wages. We believe the duties are rather heavy there.

The crypt of a church in Soho has been transformed into a rifle range. Rather suggestive of the firing below.

"There is nothing like being up-to-date," as the fly said when it settled on that article in the grocer's window.

"The most deadly of all sins that the playwright can commit is to be dull," says Alfred Sutro. To be Shaw!

"Keep your hair on," as the West-end barber replied to the sweep who requested his professional attentions.

"Most of the war cablegrams arrive mutilated," complains a contemporary. Cut by the Censor, undoubtedly.

"The very nick of thyme," as the lady said when she stole a handful of that herb from her neighbour's garden.

"Ale fellow! well met!" as the thirsty tramp remarked when he espied the boy with his mother's lunch beer.

"A grave error," as the resurrectionist exclaimed when he saw by the empty coffin that he had been forestalled.

"Insanity is sometimes caused by insects," says a doctor. Now we know why monkeys are so often up the pole.

The L.C.C. is being asked to provide a cinder track at North London. Some people want all the luxuries in this life.

"There is nothing like seeing life," as the man said when he rose and took a survey of the sheets in his seaside bedroom.

Parishioners of a church in Cricklewood have contributed 110,000 farthings towards a Building Fund. Mite-y good!

A Suffragette at Aberdeen took off her shoes and threw them at the magistrate. Thought he was a bridegroom, evidently.

Most of the animals at the Zoo have been suffering from colds. Although the camels have had the hump, the lions have been pretty well in the mane.

The threat of the suffragettes to destroy the contents of pillar-boxes looks as though they mean carrying out their militant tactics to the letter.

"This is enough to raise anyone's choler," as the man said when the button came off from the back of his shirt just as he had finished dressing.

200 Extra "Bullets" Prizes of 7s. 6d. are offered this week.

Wonderful New Baking Compound.

Considerable Saving in the Food Bill of Every Household.

Mr. Sandow introduces remarkable Food Product which makes better Bread, Cakes and Pastries at 20 per cent. less cost than before.

ENTHUSIASTIC INAUGURAL GATHERING OF SCIENTISTS AND PUBLIC MEN FOLLOWED BY A RECORD FIVE-FOLD GIFT FOR EVERY HOUSEHOLD TO MAKE KNOWN THIS REVOLUTIONARY FOOD IMPROVEMENT AND ECONOMY.

Another world's record has been broken by Mr. Eugen Sandow in his endeavours to keep pace with the demand for his new Baking Compound, the remarkable merits of which have so recently been made public in the Press.

In one day grocers and stores in every town, village and hamlet in the country have received supplies of Mr. Sandow's wonderful new Health Baking Compound, the wonderful scientific improvement on ordinary baking powder which has resulted in an immeasurably beneficial reform in the existing methods of bread and cake baking.

Henceforth, with Mr. Sandow's wonderful Baking Powder, everyone can be sure of successful baking, and have bread, or cakes, which are not only better, lighter, more nourishing, and more digestible, but cheaper than they have ever been before, because, by using Sandow's Health Baking Compound, you can make your usual quantity of bread or cakes with one-fifth less flour. It costs only 1d. per packet, and is obtainable at all grocers.

WHY MR. SANDOW'S DISCOVERY IS DIFFERENT.

A positive gain in the flour mixture used for all bread, cakes, etc., made with Sandow's Health Baking Compound —this is the first thing you will realise; and then there is a lighter, more delicious, and —this is very important— more nutritious result.

Dr. C. H. HEYDEMANN, Ph.D., stated at the Savoy gathering at which Mr. Sandow first explained the new food discovery: "Six loaves for Five! That means an increase of one-fifth of the world's bread stuff. It means also increased absorbability and with it an increased energising of the body, and I cannot help talking of energy when referring to Mr. Sandow, for he is himself a piece of the primeval force broken loose, and possesses one of the most acute and vigorous minds of our century."

This is no statement of what this remarkable compound might do, but what it actually does.

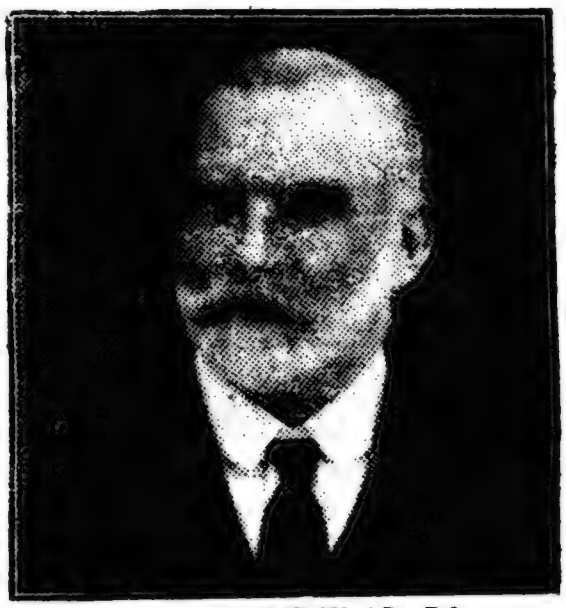
Mixed in the ordinary way, precisely the same as ordinary baking powder, it diffuses its wonderful "lightness" through every particle of flour and provides just the necessary compounds to extract the maximum nourishment while making. Every particle of flour gives up its full richness of flavour and every loaf or cake rises one-fifth larger when Sandow's Baking Compound is used, or equal results can be obtained if you use one-fifth less of the flour mixture when Sandow's Baking Compound is added.

Again, you can make your loaves of bread or cakes the day before they are put in the oven without the Baking Compound losing one atom of its efficacy.

SANDOW'S BAKING COMPOUND ECONOMISES FLOUR.

The fact that the use of Sandow's Health Baking Compound makes a big discount from your flour bill (popularly stated, six loaves can be made from the same material as hitherto was only sufficient for five) is a fact that at first the housewife does not realise, but it is very important to use less mixture with Sandow's Baking Compound or else the baked bread or cakes will rise quite out of the tin.

If you want a larger cake or loaf, use the same amount of mixture, only put it in a larger tin and give it much room in the oven. The texture of the "Sandow Loaf or Cake" is perfect, no holes, no heavy indigestible portions, and no over-quick "puffing" mar its quality and excellence. To use the Sandow's Baking Compound is to assure unqualified success in all your baking.



Mr. R. A. ROBINSON, J.P., D.L. after the demonstration of the wonderful new compound, said: "It is not enough for Mr. Sandow that he has got something which is good. It is not enough for him that he has got something as good as anyone else's can be. What Mr. Sandow is successfully able to say is, 'I have got something better than anybody else.'"

Only by experience can you tell the wonderful difference there is in using this new Sandow Health Food Baking Powder, and to make your first test Mr. Sandow offers you a splendid free gift supply of this new Baking Powder, and with the supply of Sandow's Baking Powder will be sent a really valuable illustrated cookery book, which gives over one hundred recipes for the making of better, daintier, more nutritious cakes, pastry, puddings, etc.

With every sample of the Sandow Health Food Baking Powder will be also enclosed quite free and post paid a packet of a wonderful new sweetening and flavouring product called Sandow's Vanillin Sugar; also a packet of Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa, and yet another gift in the form of a supply of Sandow's Chocolate, the new sweetmeat delicacy. To secure your gifts send the coupon below.

SEND THIS COUPON TO-DAY

for Mr. Sandow's Five-Fold Health Food Gift to Sandow's Health Foods, Ltd., Elephant and Castle, London, S.E.

DEAR SIR,

Please send me, in accordance with your offer,

1. A free Supply of the wonderful New Sandow's Health Food Baking Powder.
2. A copy of the illustrated book of over 100 Recipes for Wholesome Household Cookery.
3. A supply of the new Sandow Vanillin Sugar.
4. A packet of the delicious stamina-producing Sandow Health and Strength Cocoa.
5. A supply of the new Sandow Chocolate, the delicious sweetmeat and food in one.

Name .....

Address .....

J.B. 21/12/12. You need only put a halfpenny stamp on the envelope containing this coupon if you leave it unsealed and turn the flap in.

John Bull's Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 860.

For Sporting Replies, see page 864.

"CONSTANT" (Newcastle-on-Tyne) wants us to find her a husband, but all our staff are respectable married men. Have all the nice boys left Newcastle?

MISS E. B. (Kensington) says she is a genuine spiritualist, and being a medium she knows that no spiritualists take part in the White Slave traffic. We are very pleased to hear it.

G. A. H. S. (Balham) points out an advertisement offering a furnished room for a young lady and young man—"sharing separate beds." What a complicated arrangement!

S. F. (Edinburgh) sends us typewritten circulars from two paper merchants in Nottingham, each offering 3 cwt. of the same class of paper "at greatly reduced prices." it having been left on their hands by a customer. The quoted figure is, however, in excess of the current market price!

"NANNY GOAT" (Wrexham) thanks us for being instrumental in obtaining his money back from a firm we criticised. The pleasure is ours; always willing to oblige.

S. H. (Plymouth) wants our advice about emigrating to Australia. We strongly advise him not to go unless he has employment waiting for him, more especially as he contemplates taking his wife and five children.

J. M. (Hackney) wants to know whether a Lord Mayor must be born in the City of London. Not necessarily. Dick Whittington was born in Gloucester, and since then our Lord Mayors have come from the east and the west and from the uttermost ends of the earth.

W. J. B. (London, E.), D. W. H. (Bromley) and a quarter of a million others send us booklets from Captain Rand about his lucky stones. The Postmaster-General seems to be having a profitable time.

P. C. (Ongar) wants to send us a pound wherewith to start a fund to purchase the two battleships now building for Turkey, and for which she cannot pay. Send the sovereign along. We will make up the balance.

J. R. H. (Wallington).—If you were a regular reader you would know that we have devoted much space to the exposure of the "preliminary fee" snatchers who run paying guest agencies.

J. R. H. (Norwich) says he is not the man referred to by Mr. Lloyd George in his speech at Aberdeen as the recipient of rare and refreshing sanatorium benefits. J. R. H., after being certified by four doctors and the local committee, cannot get what is due to him under the Act.

"VILLAGER" (Nelson).—Government lotteries are quite genuine, but that remark does not apply to all the so-called "bankers" and agents who peddle the tickets.

T. G. R. (Ilford) sends us four pages of closely-written matter about some contractors who entered his house whilst he was away on holidays and pulled it down to the ground. Our friend should take his house with him next time.

F. G. W. (Harringay).—Your chestnut about the little girl and the Band of Hope used to be told in the ark.

"THE LONG ARM" (Gunnersbury).—The firm need not prosecute your friend for embezzlement unless they like, and as they have allowed a considerable time to elapse we don't suppose they will. Why not interview them? You might prevail upon them to let the matter drop, if they have not already done so.

"FAIRPLAY" (Bermondsey) sends us particulars of a penny bazaar company who pay their assistants at the rate of a penny per hour. He concludes by saying, "This is how white slaves are made." A cheap process.

J. G. (Manchester).—There is nothing in the agreement to prevent your giving private tuition in your spare time, but you would not be entitled to take pupils away from the college in which you are employed.

T. G. O. (Clapham).—Can anybody suggest to this correspondent (21) how he can secure a working passage to Durban? He is an electrician, but is "willing to take on anything in reason."

A. B. C. (Sheffield.)—As the proprietors of the Yorkshire edition of the paper undertook to insert, and accepted payment for, 26 advertisements, and published only four, refusing to insert the balance, you can sue them for damages (if you suffered any) for breach of contract, but you cannot recover the amount they deducted from your account for the four advertisements which appeared. You had better instruct a solicitor to act for you.

G. and S. (Bath) state a case in which the Post Office acknowledge having received at Bournemouth a parcel posted at Bath, but they cannot prove delivery. This is one of the grievances which will be adjusted under a Business Government.

"BRITISHER" (Cadiz) complains of the poor British representation in that city. The Vice-Consul is a clerk in a local firm, and can never be found. We have pledged ourselves to a Business consular service, and will not forget Cadiz.

J. L. J. (Liverpool).—It was not wise of you to lend your uncle money. Uncles usually lend. Sue him in the County Court.

MRS. B. (Wandsworth).—Under the present law, a mistress is not compelled to give a servant a written or any reference, but if she does it must be truthful. As your daughter kept the situation for twelve months she should not have much difficulty in finding another. If the lady persists in her refusal, your daughter should refer prospective employers to other people who can speak as to her respectability. The law should be amended to compel employers to give their servants references.

S. E. (Chiswick) complains of the long hours and low wages of bread bakers. S. E. is evidently not a member of his trade union.

J. T. (Walsall).—A will requires two witnesses, who may be either male or female. This is one of the instances where the sexes are equal.

G. H. (East Ham) posted a registered letter containing a postal order, but when the packet was delivered the order was missing. The Post Office repudiate liability and suggest the order was never enclosed. Has it been cashed?

"BREAN DAWN" (Weston).—We believe the Poor Law Postal College, of Thanet House, Strand, to be a straightforward concern.

F. E. (Byfleet) says he is "still asking for it." We presume he means the kick-out, for he states he is two months behind with his rent. We advise him to pay up, as his landlord appears to be also asking for it.

"QUBY" (Blackpool).—The fact that the mortgagee has taken possession of the property does not deprive you of the right to redeem; you may claim it back at any time before he forecloses or sells. If it is sold and realises more than sufficient to pay the debt, interest and costs, you are entitled to the balance, but more often than not property sold by mortgagee does not realise even sufficient to pay the mortgage debt.

C. E. W. (Queenborough) and "FISHY" (Evesham). For the millionth time, the Waterman Speciality Co., of 16, Great James Street, W.C., are impudent rogues who offer employment to all who first buy one of their 3s. 6d. pens.

J. P. R. (Golder's Green).—The death of your father does not cancel the agreement with the landlord; his estate is liable for the rent for the remainder of the lease. Neither you nor your mother, however, is personally liable unless a party to the agreement.

W. R. G. (London, E.C.) sends us half-a-crown for the benefit of poor Mrs. Cummings, whose child recently died from Bright's disease. At the inquest a deplorable state of affairs was brought to light, there being practically no furniture or food in the house. The father, 51 years of age, had been told that he was too old for work, though he was quite strong. When he applied to the guardians for relief, he was told to go into the workhouse with his family. For some time they had lived on bread and marmalade. We shall be very happy to forward any other subscriptions which may be received.

"Bullets" is a Stupendous Success! Why?——

"PITY THE POOR EDITOR" (Glasgow).—Thanks for your enlightening words to correspondent *re* Australia, that the grants of land made to his relatives are "irredeemable if the conditions of the grant were duly implemented, and that therefore in the event of the death of his relatives holding such their heirs can take up the grants on the same conditions." That's all right.

W. R. S. (Bangor).—We have no means of ascertaining the correctness of the pretensions of Blake and Co., Gurney Street, London, that their staff supply not less than 200 prize solutions in newspaper competitions every week. What a pity they don't go in for all the prizes themselves!

"OPPORTUNITY."—If the only reason you can give for your anonymity is that it is "woe to any officer who tells the facts to JOHN BULL," we cannot deal with your letter. An editor must receive confidence if confidence is to be given.

"DUSTY" (Dorking).—You are bound by the terms of the agreement to take the goods on the hire-purchase system. As you do not now require them, you should try and arrange with the firm to cancel the deal on payment of a small sum.

F. E. W. (Rugby) sends us a letter written to his firm by the Domestic Supply Co., of Wakefield and Leeds, offering to purchase first inquiry letters, post cards, and filled-in coupons. No firm of standing would entertain selling their clients' names and addresses to such touts.

T. G. R. (Ilford).—We are not in the House just now, so cannot put your question down. Why not write your local M.P., Sir J. H. Bethell? He does ask a question occasionally.

"NIL DESPERANDUM."—Your employer's accountant's statement that if it had not been for his influence with the insurance company you would not have obtained any compensation, as he was of opinion that you had suffered from rupture before the accident, is neither slanderous nor libellous, nor would it bear the inference that you had obtained the money by false pretences. You are much too sensitive and quarrelsome.

A. C. P. (Salop) wants "all the books containing information and instruction on the whole working of motors and motor cycles." We will send them on—when we have collected them.

"YACHTSMAN" says the lack of sanitation at sea is not confined to trawlers, but is quite the usual thing on board hundreds of yachts.

W. B. S. (Leeds).—If the local surveyor has over-assessed your income, appeal to the Commissioners. Government officials are always endeavouring to distinguish themselves.

L. B. P. (Greenock).—You are one of the many victims of the advertisments of Craig, Craig & Co., of 81, Dunlop Street, Glasgow. Did you notice that their telegraphic address is "Catchword"?

F. P. (Great Yarmouth).—The hymn we recently quoted is one not calculated to elevate a child's mind. As our City Editor says, "We should have preferred another selection."

C. F. N. (Liverpool).—As you entered into a contract to purchase a house which you knew you could not fulfil, you do not deserve any sympathy, and you cannot complain of the vendor suing you and obtaining judgment for damages. If a judgment summons is issued, as your income is small, the Court would make an order to pay by easy instalments only. We do not think the solicitor will carry out his threat of informing your employers. Don't do anything so silly again.

J. J. R. (Oldham).—We know nothing of the Marvel Film Co., of 37, Lorn Road, Brixton, but your case seems to demand the attention of a solicitor.

A. M. (Glasgow) has sent us a poem written on the launching of H.M.S. *Cape of Good Hope* in 1901. He is angry because the copy he sent to the German Emperor was never acknowledged. Rude man!

"VICTIM" (Battersea).—If you are rated to the poor on a value of not less than £30 you are liable to serve on a jury. Being summoned for non-payment does not exempt. Certain persons are, however, exempt—such as peers, M.P.'s, clergymen, barristers, solicitors, doctors, officers of courts and lunatic asylums, chemists, postal officials, Custom and Inland Revenue officials, police officers, borough councillors, J.P.'s., and town clerks. Actors can also claim exemption on the ground that by an old Act of Parliament they were declared to be rogues and vagabonds!

A. W. J. (Forest Gate).—If you will write to the Railway Nationalisation Society, you can obtain a pamphlet giving facts and figures which show the wastefulness of the present railway system. We agree with you that the time has arrived when we should take steps to bring about State ownership.

E. H. (Southport).—We do not think that Bismarck was so complete a failure as you wish to paint him. You must remember that without him Germany would not have been the Power she is to-day.

J. L. (W.C.).—Typists do not come within the provisions of the Shops Act; you therefore cannot compel your employer to give you a half-holiday a week. If you do not like the terms and conditions of your employment, you should find another situation.

S. C. D. (Stoke Newington).—It is certainly amusing for the writer of the serial story in a contemporary to say: "With his hands in his pockets Peter slowly tore into small pieces the slip of paper he had taken from his desk." Where *was* the slip?

W. R. (Holloway) confirms all we say about the New South Wales, Immigration Department, as his experience is practically identical with that of our Halifax reader. He paid his passage money about March last and fully expected to sail within two or three months. He has, however, received several letters from the officials, putting him off from time to time, the latest being precisely similar to that which we quoted, offering a passage in the spring on payment of an additional fee. The extraordinary delay has put him to great inconvenience, as in anticipation of his early departure his wife left him to live with relatives. It is a scandalous shame that this kind of thing should be permitted. But we are afraid it is nothing to what our correspondents will experience when once they land at Sydney.

MR. E. H. VAGG, of the "Empire" Reversionary Investment Company, 11, Pancras Lane, E.C., wishes us to make it clear that he is in no way related to the J. H. Vagg, Accountant, upon whose methods we have commented—and that he has never had any business dealings with that individual, nor is he personally acquainted with him.

PRIVATE J. R. (Devon).—Why get so excited over your proposition that even a Turkish soldier is not such a fool as to mistake wooden bullets for real ones? The question is, what were they doing on the Turkish side on the field of war? Of two things one; they were either a blunder or a crime.

T. M. (Glasgow).—Sorry you have "got an idea to bring out a patent," for it is about a thousand to one that half a million people have had the same idea years ago. However, you will find addresses of advertising patent agents in almost any Scots newspaper. Tell one of them your trouble.

E. E. T. (Sheffield).—The difficulty in the way of awarding a "biscuit" to the firm labelling its product "High-class damson jam, *made from pure cane sugar only*," is its anonymity.

"JACK" (Southampton).—Yes, we can tell you what is meant by the "Can-can Dance," but we won't. We are respectable people, we are. So we can't-can't.

J. B. (Portsmouth).—A Merry Christmas to you and the little one. The maternity benefit of 30s. under the Insurance Act does not commence until 26 weeks has elapsed since your entry into the Insurance scheme. Try, try, try again.

"A BULLITE."—Do you think it fair to ask us to criticise the way in which the firm you name treat their girls and at the same time withhold your name from us?

J. F. (Dundee).—The little trade dispute between yourself and Messrs. Peek, Frean and Co. is hardly of public interest.

F. G. C. tells us that the address of Morris (upon whose extraordinary "System of Practical, Simplified Business Assistance and Guidance without Tedious Training or Extortionate Fees," we recently commented) should really be 2, Rose Cottages, Crow Hill Road, Garlinge—Westgate being merely the place through which letters are delivered. He tells us he cannot find Morris's name in Kelly's 1913 Directory, and the address given is a small cottage for agricultural labourers—hardly the residence for one of such vast business abilities!

C. L. (Bath).—For the guidance of the good friends who send us "biscuit" material, we give in some detail the reasons which influenced us to reject your and other contributions. The example of confusion in the personal column of the journal which you send us, by which the announcement of births is placed under the heading "Deaths," is really not funny, and our specifically calling attention to it would be likely to hurt the feelings of innocent individuals.

"AJAX" (Wood Green).—Except in very rare instances, we pay no half-crowns in respect of mistakes made in the announcement of fatal accidents.

E. B. (Wigan).—We never give "biscuits" to would-be rivals or competitors—our motive might be misunderstood. All the same, the description of a person as living "by diverting money from the trouser-pocket of the orphan and the widow into his own," certainly makes us smile.

One of our readers offers for sale an autograph letter of the late Mr. W. S. Penley, the proceeds to be added to our Christmas Poor Fund. Who bids?

(A large number of replies are held over.)

NEXT WEEK'S JOHN BULL owing to the Christmas Holidays will be ON SALE **MONDAY, DEC. 23.**

Because it is a STRAIGHT Competition.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

CITY NOTES.

(For Financial and Insurance Letter-Box, see page 860.)

Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa.

This Company is going strong. With adequate funds assured, active operations are about to commence, and it would not surprise us to see the £1 shares at £10 before many months are past. Whether, in accordance with the prediction of the eminent American expert, Mr. Chapman, they will some day be £200 each, is another matter. But you never can tell.

A Lucky Englishman.

Our Paris representative, who happened a few days ago to call upon Cunliffe, Russell and Co., the leading firm of Continental bankers dealing in Premium Bonds, had the satisfaction of seeing a bank draft for £20,000 dispatched to a Taunton solicitor, who had been fortunate enough through them to purchase a bond of the Hungarian Foncier. At the same time the firm were remitting £1,850, the second prize in the same drawing, to a retired captain of St. Ives, and £500 to a medical man in Wiltshire.

More Pump Court Piffle.

The young gentleman of Pump Court (Temple) and High Holborn (W.C.) who writes the "City" notes of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, surpassed himself the other day by fathering a complaint that the report of an eminent geologist on a specimen of rock was *six years old!* Have there been any earthquakes in Africa lately? Really, Mr. Garvin, *can't* you afford a real financial editor?

Law Car and General.

Mr. Charles John Fowler, late managing director of the Law Car and General Insurance Corporation, Ltd., having been permitted to make a hurried but comfortable departure to regions far removed from the scene of his exploits, fulfilled expectations by not attending for Public Examination. The proceedings were adjourned *sine die*, and we can only hope that a veil will not be drawn over this disgraceful scandal.

Anglo-Continentals.

We referred to this ramp in our issue of October 26th, and now even the directors have been obliged finally to throw over Mr. E. L. Langslow-Cock, the Government Inspector of Mines for Nigeria, whose "bull" report on the alleged Jemaa lode, ostensibly a private document intended for the eye of the Colonial Office only, was distributed in Nigeria and materially assisted the wire-pullers over here, who were rigging the market. The directors now publish a report of the mine-managers dated 4th ult., and in consequence of its contents, apprise shareholders that they have "come to the conclusion that it is advisable to discontinue all work on the lode at present and to concentrate all efforts on testing the property for alluvial tin." The lode which Mr. Langslow-Cock inspected last April, and which he stated had exposed "very rich visible cassiterite," has thus run off, together with the price of the shares, which during the boom went to £8 and is now 15s. We still await an explanation from the Colonial Office as to why the contents of Mr. Langslow-Cock's report were not kept secret. Even had his prognostications proved correct, its publication would have been unjustifiable.

Eaton's Duncombe and Bunkum.

Mr. Edmund Eaton, as the Anglo-Russian Liquid Fuel Syndicate, of 6, Abchurch Yard, E.C., is sending out circulars stating that he has been authorised by Colonel the Hon. Hubert V. Duncombe, D.S.O., to forward particulars of the South of England Natural Gas and Petroleum Co., Ltd., with a view to placing some of its shares. The particulars enclosed start with a collection of names of a dozen distinguished personages such as Admiral Lord Fisher, all printed in capital letters, the intention being, without doubt, that recipients should imagine that these people were connected with the enterprise. In order, however to save his skin, Eaton has printed a line in very small type under their names reading, "The above gentlemen represent the Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the Fuel Supply of the British Navy." We refuse to believe that this grave misuse of eminent names has been brought to the notice of the Hon. Hubert Duncombe, and we call his attention to it now so that he may take instant steps to have the pamphlet withdrawn. There are other matters connected with the issue of the shares which demand his attention.

Rubbing It In.

The Committee of Shareholders in Homocea, Ltd., have submitted their report and have recommended the adoption of the offer made by the Oatine Company to take its business in hand. The Committee have been, to our mind, somewhat severe on Mr. Benjamin Brandreth, whose father, in a large measure, created whatever goodwill Homocea has. However, now that things have been straightened out we trust that this remedy will touch the spot so effectively in future that the shareholders will be able to receive good dividends again.

Tin (Pot) Concessions, Ltd.

We took the liberty recently of explaining to his Worship the Mayor of New Westminster, B.C., our view as to what constituted a "tin-pot" City; to-day we are called upon to criticise the prospectus of a "tin-pot" company. It is called Tin Concessions, Ltd., and we observe that its godfathers are a surveyor, an accountant and a newspaper proprietor, of whom we have not hitherto heard, but then they haven't "written to JOHN BULL about it"! Their little prospectus has just fluttered into our City offices and lain itself on our table. We note that the bantling has no solicitors, auditors or bankers, and that the secretary has kindly consented to take charge of all the contributions which may be sent in for its maintenance, and incidentally for contributing to the support of its directors and of himself. The prospectus appears to us to be a direct challenge to the Companies Act of 1908, for it omits to comply with many of its requirements. The whole thing is, of course, beneath contempt, the directors, who present no credentials whatever, having the effrontery to ask to be entrusted with £5,000 for the purpose of fossicking around Cornwall on the off-chance of finding some payable tin mines. The public are assured, in capital letters, that their sending money to the secretary under these circumstances will prove a "safe investment carrying a dividend of 100 per cent.," and in order to show how profitable tin-mining in Cornwall will be under the auspices of the board, an extract from *Tit-Bits* is given!

NEW ISSUES.

Taiping Tin Prospects.

This appears to be a decent, straightforward issue of 200,000 2s. shares, half the proceeds of which go towards purchase price and the other half to working capital.

Clark Tyre Company.

This undertaking is not, in our opinion, ripe for a public company, and we do not suppose that the general body of investors will take any interest in it.

City of Christiania Loan.

Messrs. "Frederick J. Benson and Co." ask for another half-million (on the top of existing loans of about three millions) for the Norwegian capital. It is to carry the princely interest of 4 per cent., and to be issued at 96½. What nerve!

City of Moose Jaw.

You must know that the city of Moose Jaw "is the second largest city in the province of Saskatchewan." What the third one is we are unable to say. But with a population "estimated" at 28,000 (by the way, why not have counted it?) and an already existing debt of nearly £600,000—well, not even the gift of three battleships will induce us to subscribe.

City of Lethbridge Loan.

More Canadian demands. It is, indeed, our money they want; and apparently they are getting it. Almost as impudent as Moose Jaw!

Pathescope, Limited.

A tempting speculation, as to which the prospectus frankly says "it is obviously impossible at present to form any reliable estimate of profits." A good gamble.

Auto-Carriers, Limited.

This appears to be a respectable little concern, and we see no objection to the further issue of preference shares now being made.

Cherakara Tea Estates.

A very speculative affair, with profits all in the air. Should be left severely alone by the ordinary investor.

Thomas Tilling, Limited.

An issue of £200,000 5½ per cent. "Cumulative Participating Convertible Income Debenture Stock," part of an issue of £250,000, not, in our view, too well secured.

New South Wales Stock.

A £3,000,000 loan for further public works. Issue price, £99 10s. Of course, the revenues of the Colony are alone responsible.

Over 3,000 Valuable "Bullets" Prizes to be Won.

Emphasize the natural flavour of all meats by taking Mustard with them.

York ham, Scotch beef and Welsh or Southdown mutton taste as they ought to taste, if you eat Mustard with them.

It should, of course, be

Colman's D.S.R Mustard

S.H.B.

A.B.C. GUIDE TO STOCK EXCHANGE
(43rd Edition)

Stock Exchange Operations thoroughly explained, also Call Options. How to open an account with limited risk. How to avoid Brokers' Commissions. Contains Highest and Lowest Sales for last 15 years. Gratis from Publishers—

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SPORTSMEN.

32/6

10XL PRISMOID BINOCULARS,
With thick leather case.
(Black or brown complete.)

When a man gets a good Binocular he almost makes a friend of it. The Binocular illustrated has a wide field of vision, splendid definition and luminosity. It is undoubtedly the premier of moderate priced glasses. In appearance it is easily approximated to a 12-Guinea Binocular. These are being offered, for a short time only, at the above special price, which is practically manufacturer's cost. As a gift nothing would be more acceptable. State whether Black or Brown case is required. Sent by registered post upon receipt of P.O. to

HEDGE BINOCULAR CO.,
38, CROSS STREET,
MANCHESTER.

THE NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (Ltd.

hold an immense stock of genuine high-class Second Hand ANTIQUE AND MODERN FURNITURE, £200,000 worth of high-class goods for sale, including FURNITURE, DRAPERIES, BEDDING, CARPETS, PLATE, LINEN, PIANOS, ETC., ETC.

The following is an abbreviated list of Furniture and Effects lately removed from

Milton Mansions, Queen's Club Gardens,
Drayton Road, Harlesden.
Durnsford Road, Wimbledon Park.
The Avenue, Chingford.
Maud Street, Rhyl,
and Elsewhere.

THE DINING ROOMS, ETC.,

comprise the following: Set of 6 small chairs and 2 arm chairs, Georgian period, 14 guineas; Georgian Sideboard to match, 11 guineas; dining table to match, extending, £7 10s.; Bookcase to match, 6 guineas; very massive oak Sideboard, £5 10s.; Overmantel to match, £2 5s.; Extending dining table, £3 10s.; 6 small chairs and 2 arm chairs in carved oak, 40 guineas; Sideboard, very finely carved, in oak, to match, 12 guineas; 3 Chesterfield Settees, £3 10s. each; 6 very fine Lounge Club Divan easy chairs, 27s. 6d. each; Carved Oak Dining Table, 4 guineas; Carved Oak Overmantel, £2 10s.; Saddlebag suite, £4 15s.; another dining-room suite, £3 15s.; Massive carved oak Sideboard, with oxydised copper fittings, bevelled plate glass, 6 small chairs and 2 arm chairs to match, extending dining table, heavy curb suite, £15 10s. the lot; similar set in fumigated oak, £13 10s.; 10 real Turkey carpets, about 9 by 12, at 7 guineas each; 4 Turkey carpets, about 9 ft. 6 ins. by 12 ft. 6 ins., £5 10s. each; 20 Turkey rugs, from 25s.; numerous carpets in Tapestry, Axminster and Velvet Pile, all sizes, in thoroughly good condition, to be sold without any reserve; a most elegant Grand Piano, 18 guineas; an upright Grand Piano, 12 guineas; another by Adolph Achumann, 18 guineas; another, by Carl Strauss, 22 guineas; several Grand Pianos by Broadwood, Emil Panor, Collard and Collard, Bluthner, and Bechstein; 3 Hall Stands, 18s. 6d. each; hall chairs, from 7s. 6d.; and all necessary effects for completely furnishing Dining Rooms, Smoke Rooms, Libraries, Studies, etc., etc.

THE NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (LTD.),

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One door from Oxford Street, three minutes from Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Circus, and adjoining all the principal Tubes. Telephone 1307

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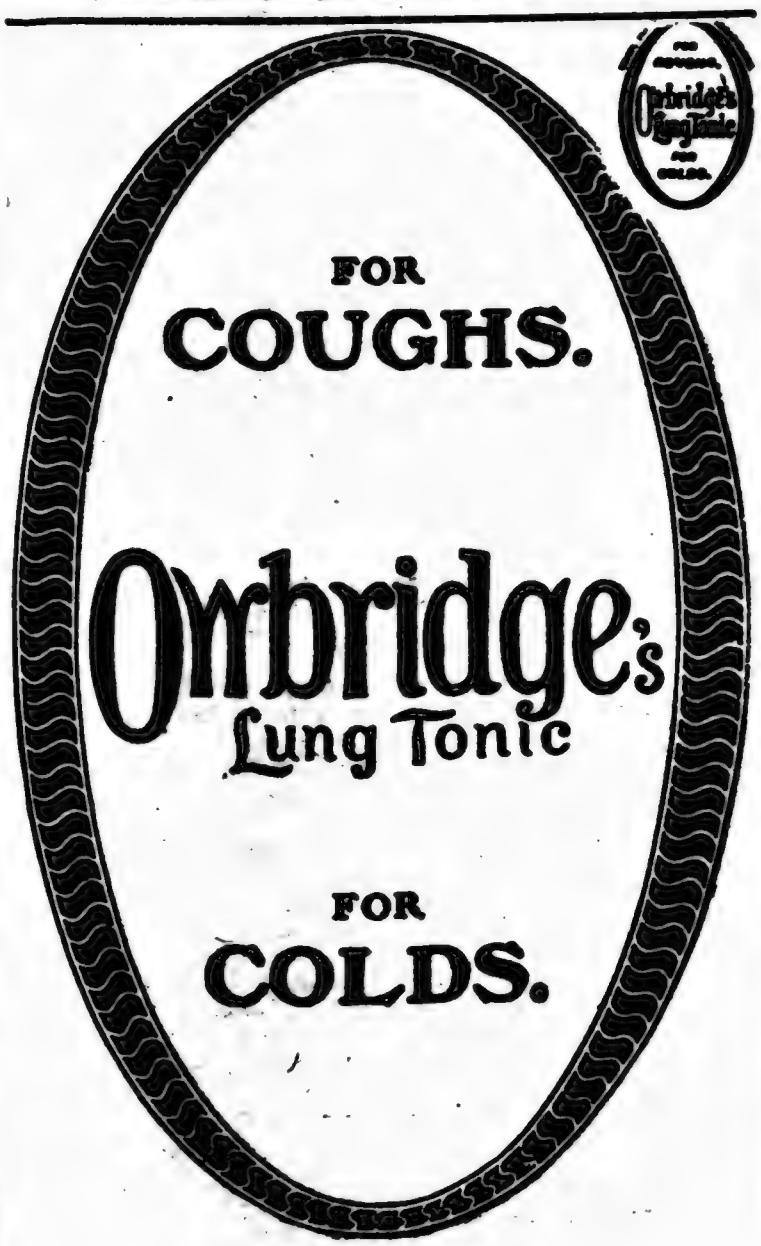

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, *52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.*

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

RUBBERS AND OIL.—TIN.—Anglo Malays have eased off in common with other stocks, but there is every prospect of their rising when Peace is concluded in the Balkans and money gets easier. Hold Premier Oil, the position is just the same. We understand that there will soon be an active market in Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, when the quotation will be duly reported in the Financial Papers.

£10,000 INVESTMENT.—IGNORANT.—For the investment of this sum, you might select the following 5 per cent. yielding investments:—Gisborne Harbour Board 5 per cents., at 100; Rio de Janeiro (Federal) Gold 5 per cent. Bonds, at 102; Japanese 5 per cent. 1907 Loan, at 101; North British Railway Preferred 3 per cent., at 61; Beira Railway 4½ per cent. Mortgage Debentures, at 95; Grand Trunk 5 per cent. Second Preference at 99; Canadian Northern 5 per cent. Converted Income Debentures, at 102; Bahia Blanca Railway Guaranteed 5 per cent. £10 shares, at 9⅞; Entre Rios First 5 per cent. Preference at 98; Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries First Mortgage 4½ per cent. debentures, at 94.

DEPTFORD RAILWAY.—J. J. S.—We have made exhaustive inquiries in the market, but can get no definite information. We are told, however, to refer you to the Railway Department of the Board of Trade, where they will probably be able to tell you what has become of this Railway Company.

DIDCOT, NEWBURY AND SOUTHAMPTON RAILWAY.—G. D. (Southampton).—The value of the Ordinary shares is quite problematical, as no dividends are being paid, nor on the 3 per cent. Debenture stock. The hope of the shareholders lies in the complete absorption of the line by the Great Western Railway, who are now working it. As a lockup, it might be worth while accepting the offer in question.

FOREIGN BOND.—B. J. E.—The Bond of the Credit Foncier of Hungary, which you sent, is apparently worth about £18, but there is very little market for them, and if you wish to sell you would probably have to take less. We have returned the Bond.

SYNTHETIC PRODUCTS COMPANY.—ANXIOUS.—Nothing is known regarding the work done, and we do not consider the outlook satisfactory. At all events, so far as Synthetic Rubber is concerned, there is nothing in it.

ATLANTIC QUEBEC AND WESTERN RAILWAY.—H. H. (Slaithwaite).—These bonds are one of the assets of the Charing Cross Bank. Write to the Liquidators for information.

PORCO TIN MINES.—T. F. D. (Glasgow).—If the shares were allotted to you before you applied to have your application cancelled you are liable for the calls.

BANK SHARES.—J. H. C. (Bromsgrove).—The nominal value of Lloyds Bank shares is £50, on which £8 is paid up, and that of the Metropolitan £50, with £5 paid up. You can obtain the Official Intelligence, which will give you the information you require, from J. G. Wetenhall, 4, Copthall Buildings, E.C., published daily, price 6d.—T. A. N. (Leytonstone).—Of the three banks you mention we prefer the second.

SAFE INVESTMENT.—L. M. (Stoke-on-Trent).—The Bank you mention is in the Midlands, and it is impossible to say whether any more capital will be called up; we should think probably not at present. There are now severe fluctuations taking place in American Rails, which are also affecting Canadian Pacifics. These are rather speculative, and you should be careful. The Ordinary shares of the Mclaggins Company are not quoted, the Preference stand at ¼-1.

FRENCH INTERNATIONAL COLD TRANSPORT AND STORAGE.—F. L. P. (Leicester).—These shares are of no value. If you are unable to obtain delivery, place the matter in the hands of a solicitor.

CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.—T. J. (Liverpool).—We understand that operations will commence immediately after Christmas. Ample funds are available. Nothing has occurred to alter our view that the shares are an exceptionally good purchase.

EQUITABLE HOUSE PROPERTY COMPANY.—ENQUIRER.—We do not advise investment in their House Purchase certificates. Under a recent decision of the Court, they are not allowed to issue this class of policy until they have satisfied the requirements of the Life Assurance Act, 1909, which compels the lodgment with the High Court of Justice of £20,000 for the security and protection of the policy-holders.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—SECRETARY.—We are obliged for the enclosures and observe, with satisfaction, that since 1909 the annual increase in the growth of the profit fund for the two years ended 1910 and 1911 amounts to £253,390, and £265,809, respectively. As stated in our issue of December 7th, we hope shortly to be able to deal with the position and prospects of the various Canadian Companies issuing policies in this country.

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.—OLD SKIPPER.—This is a first-class Institution, and is favourably known for liberality of treatment to Policy-holders. We consider the offer the Company has made you a fair one, but before accepting, ascertain the sum that would be allowed for the surrender of the policy and Bonus additions, and the cost of obtaining a Joint Life policy, to be treated as a new assurance without reference to the present policy. You could then decide which of the two proposals it would be more advantageous to accept.

MUTUAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT AND ACCIDENT COMPANY.—W. N. (Forest Gate).—We have returned your Bond Certificate and the correspondence. The evidence you have submitted satisfies us that the Company would be well advised to comply with your request and return the premiums paid, without the necessity of your having to commence legal action to enforce your claim. Write them again, renewing the application, and if they should refuse, consult a solicitor.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—W. E. C. (Woking).—You appear to have purchased a Bond certificate to secure a loan made by you to the original holder. You have since continued payments of the subscriptions and, wishing to surrender the certificate, you are offered one-third of the amount paid in. It is quite clear, from the table of surrender values printed on the Bond, that you cannot legally claim more. You must, therefore, accept the offer, or adopt one or other of the modes provided for dealing with the investment, such as purchasing property or exchanging the Bond for a policy of Life Assurance.

NATIONAL BENEFIT LIFE AND PROPERTY ASSURANCE.—J. H. C. Leicester).—Ask the Company to exchange the fully paid Bond for an Endowment Policy of Life Assurance maturing at an age to be selected by you. We believe the Company issues such policies combining also House Purchase. We are sure they will do everything possible to meet your wishes.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA LEGAL FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—J. C. (Plymouth).—Your mother holds policies on the life of her father of the face value of £5 12s. 6d. and in respect of which premiums have been paid amounting to £13. Realising the unprofitable nature of these assurances, she enquired if a Bonus could be obtained or a fully paid policy granted, and both these requests, you say, have been refused. We fear you have no remedy. Your mother must either keep on paying or lapse the policies, in which event, all premiums paid will be forfeited to the Society. We have frequently pointed out the one-sided and inequitable character of the conditions associated with these Industrial policies in cases where a policy holder, for any reason, is compelled or desires to discontinue the assurance.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE.—DICKY.—You have not enclosed the policies on the lives of your father and mother. We, however, presume that your name appears thereon as the proposer. The Act of 1909 legalises certain insurance policies that were admittedly invalid because of the absence of insurable interest. It is legal to effect an insurance for money to be paid for the funeral expenses of a parent. You say that your parents have no knowledge of these assurances. This fact, standing alone, is not sufficient in itself to void the policies. You further assert that, at the time, you had no expectation that you would incur expenses in connection with the death or funeral of either parent. Our interpretation of the Act is that a legal policy on the life of a parent is only created if the policy was effected by a person who had a bona-fide belief that he would incur the expenses above mentioned. It is, therefore, for you to decide whether or not you will contest the point which arises in your case. You had better obtain the opinion of a solicitor. FAKED (Bilston).—You wish to know as a Collector if the company can legally charge you for what you term "overlapsing," and which you define as money they have not had, but which the Policyholders should have paid? You also ask if the Company can, by law, compel you to make good any decrease in the debit when the agreement of service terminates? We do not find any mention in the agreement relating to "overlapsing." Send us the rule, or any condition, having reference to this point. As regards "making good" any shrinkage in the debit, rule 9 states: "To make good to the Company, in case of my resigning the appointment or being dismissed therefrom, the amount of decrease (if any) in the premium debit upon my collectorship ascertained up to and including four weeks from the expiration of my said notice of resignation or dismissal, and to accept the difference shown by the accounts of my collectorship between the debit and my standard debit as the basis of my liability thereunder." The meaning of this condition is clear, namely, that you have accepted responsibility for any decrease in the standard debit which could be shown at the close of the collectorship, and for four weeks afterwards, when the account is made up. A bargain is binding when agreed to by both parties, and we presume, strictly speaking, that you are legally liable to make good the decrease. There is, however, in law such a thing as equity, and whether or not on equitable grounds the Company could compel you to pay for something you have not received is, we think, a moot point.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE.—T. J. G. (Belfast).—You inform us that 25 years ago, your uncle and aunt became policy-holders, and have paid, in premiums, over £22. Having now to contribute to the National Insurance, they have applied for free policies and have been offered £5 18s. each. They do not consider they are getting fair value. Free policy values not being stated in advance, the amount is a matter within the discretion of the Company, and your relatives, therefore, must either accept their offer, or keep on paying.

WESLEYAN AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—LATE AGENT.—We do not like the system of "Debit and Credit," through which the industrial business is carried on by this and other Companies. It is a system which, sooner or later, involves the agent in difficulties, and should, in our opinion, form the subject of a searching Government enquiry. Under the agreement you enclose, you have consented to be debited with the amount of weekly premiums collectable less the amount allowed for lapses, transfers, deaths and not-taken-up policies during the week. The fees allowed are 12 weeks' premium on all new policies issued. On the other hand, you are charged or debited with 12 times the weekly premium on all policies lapsed when assurers have not paid more than 12 weekly premiums from date of entrance, and 6 times if over 12 and less than 17. Before settling up with the Society you should demand a detailed statement showing the position in which your "Debit and Credit" account stood at the expiration of your notice, and how your contributions to the guarantee fund have been dealt with. We should like to see the weekly collectable account, item 15, form 28. Can you send us this?

ROYAL LIVER FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—UNIQUE.—You complain that (a) your life was insured by your wife without your knowledge or consent; (b) you object to the payment of the 10d. per week out of your small weekly earnings, and you ask, that in the event of the predecease of your wife, what will become of the policies which have been maintained throughout with your money? In answer to your questions, (a) a wife has an insurable interest in the life of her husband provided she is dependent on him for support; (b) in a case somewhat similar to your own, the husband applied for the recovery of insurance premiums, paid by his wife without his knowledge or consent, and counsel successfully argued that a wife could not apply her husband's money for things which were not necessaries when she knew it was not his will. If it should be held that the policies are the legal property of your wife, she could, of course, dispose of her interest in them, by will or otherwise.

DEFERRED ANNUITY.—W. J. Y. (Bristol).—We should advise the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 4-5, Norfolk Street, Strand, London, W.C.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER.—INDUSTRIAL.—It is difficult for us to advise in the absence of the policies and knowledge as regards the nature of the assurances effected. We note your statement that the Company have made you an offer of 40 per cent. of the money paid under the eight policies towards a joint endowment policy, and that you have not been successful with your application for a return of the premiums paid. We cannot help you until we know all the particulars.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—C. E. D. (Ilkley).—According to the documents you enclose, you hold five policies. You are offered free policies in respect of two of them for less than one-half the amount paid in premiums. You also point out that no cash surrender value is allowed. We fear you are helpless. You must either accept their offer or keep on paying. We may mention that no provision is made in the policies either for the issue of free policies or the payment of a surrender value. You will see, therefore, that you are entirely at the mercy of the company, and must accept, or refuse, what they choose to give. The foregoing remarks apply also to the three whole life policies, issued in 1903, in respect of which the Superintendent writes that they have no free policy value at present. You had better ascertain when they do acquire a value and for what amount. You will then be able to decide the course to follow. Having regard to the representations which you say were made to you at the time you applied for the policies, viz., that you could obtain free policies at the expiration of three or five years respectively, we advise you to consult a solicitor.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE.—A. H. (Sheffield).—We do not favour any of the offices you mention, and think you should take a wider survey before deciding.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

Still on the Increase. £1,000 for "Bullets" this week.

WHAT ARE YOU WORTH?

AN ASTONISHING ANALYSIS OF HUMAN VALUES DEMONSTRATING THE SMALL WORTH OF ALL BUT THE BRAIN.

HOW TO BECOME A MENTAL MILLIONAIRE.

An astonishing fact has been revealed by a distinguished Professor of Science.

"What is a man worth?" was the question he set himself to solve.

As a result he discovered a most remarkable analogy between the value of a man's body and the value of his physical labour.

The commercial value of the physical constituents of a man's body, he found, is just what that man could earn per week by purely physical labour.

An average man's body, states the Professor, contains about 10s. worth of *fat*.

It contains sufficient *phosphorus* to provide heads for 2,200 matches.

It contains enough *magnesium* to make some respectable fireworks.

It contains *albumen* equal to a number of eggs.

Sugar and *salt* in saleable quantities are also to be found in his system.

Totalling up these various items the Professor finds that altogether the average man is worth about 30s.

A £20 A MINUTE MAN.

Yet, whilst the man who works with his *body* earns only 30s. a week, or less, the man who works with his *brain* earns £6, £8, £10, £20, perhaps even £30 and more per week.

J. D. Rockefeller, it is stated, has an income of over £10,000,000 a year, or £20 a minute.

Note how small, therefore, is the earning power of the body compared to the earning power of the trained and organised brain!

"Money rules the world," runs the old saying. Really the phrase should read, "Mind rules the world."

The trained intelligence, the scientifically organised brain, is the greatest asset any man or woman can possess. The big balance at the bank is created by the scientifically trained business brain. All the luxuries and desirable things of life, mansions and motor-cars, comforts and culture, power and pleasure, are at the behest of the man who has trained his brain on scientific lines and has developed its powers (as you have now a splendid opportunity of developing the powers of *your* brain) on the right, success-making, income-earning lines.

Many people do train their minds in this way. That is why they get on so well. Copies of some of their letters will be sent you, showing how successful they have been as the result of acquiring the Pelman System. Many of them are now making from £5 to £15 per week *more* than they did before they had the advantage of following this course of mental training which you have an opportunity of adopting to-day on specially favourable terms.

A RISE OF £10 A WEEK.

How would you like to earn, say, £10 a week *more* than you are earning now?—a rise of £500 a year.

It is well within the reach of your powers—provided you develop the latter as the Pelman System shows you how.

Although many men and women have taken advantage of this Pelman plan, and have thus trained their minds to make more money, the large majority of people have not taken the trouble to train their mental money-making faculties at all.

These are the average, mediocre men and women who, all their lives, are in the receipt of comparatively small salaries and who never rise to the top or become wealthy and successful.

These are the men and women whom you can easily pass in the race of life if you train your brain on the scientific business principles of the Pelman System.

You don't want to remain behind "in the crowd." You want to be in front among the leaders. To do this you must train and develop your brain as shown in the magazine that will be sent you free on application to the address below. Then write for this magazine and particulars to-day. All are sent you without any charge being made.

READ THESE LETTERS FROM SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MEN AND FORMER PELMAN STUDENTS.

Many of the highest-paid posts in the British Isles to-day are held by men who have practised this system. Copies of many of their letters will be sent you to read. You will see how highly they praise this system, and what it has done for them it will do for you.

Many a junior clerk has become head of a department, then a manager, and finally a director, simply through following the Pelman System and training his mind on this plan.

This system develops in your mind fine judgment, a splendid memory, original thinking power, the faculty of instantly seizing the pivotal principle of any proposition and noting in a glance both its weaknesses and its strong points.

PRACTICAL BENEFITS YOU CAN NOW SECURE.

It enables those who practise it to—

— improve their positions in office or business,
— impress their personalities upon their surroundings,
— double or treble their brain output without extra exertion,
— develop fine organising, managing and driving power,
— create original money-worth ideas,
— deliver speeches without notes,
— speak, write and read foreign languages,
— pass examinations with distinction, and
— make more money and to succeed.

THE FOLLOWING HAVE PRACTISED AND PROFITED FROM THIS PLAN.

Amongst readers who have been enabled to make more money and to succeed by the aid of this system may be mentioned:—Bookkeepers, Shipbrokers, Printers, Grocers, Land Agents, Merchants, Clerks, Canvassers, Salesmen, Travellers, Civil Servants, Lawyers, Doctors, Writers, Architects, Barristers, Solicitors, Clergymen, Insurance Superintendents, Public Speakers, Artisans, Politicians, Soldiers, Sailors, Schoolmasters and Mistresses, Students, and business and professional men of every grade from the famous member of parliament and the head of a world-wide business down to the clerk who learns how to earn more money by this method and is selected for promotion by his employer because of the alertness and efficiency (developed by this system) which marks all his actions.

TAKES UP VERY LITTLE TIME.

Remember this plan takes up very little of your spare time to follow.

In fact, the system has been especially arranged to enable you to follow it in those spare moments when you are doing nothing else.

The books of the system are published in pocket-size. You can carry them about with you and study the system (and it is most interesting) when travelling to and from business or at lunch time, or at any other odd moment during the day.

ACCEPT THIS FREE GIFT WHICH BRINGS THE MEANS OF SUCCESS WITHIN YOUR MENTAL GRASP.

In return you will receive, free of cost, a copy of the most interesting magazine ever published, "THE PELMAN MAGAZINE OF THE MIND," together with full particulars, which will show you how you can at once begin to develop the success-winning powers of your mind and to increase your money-earning capacity. It gives you, also, particulars enabling you to secure all the above advantages on specially advantageous "Summer terms," which place them easily within your reach, and within the reach of everyone, however small his or her salary. In all probability this is the only opportunity you will have of securing this special concession, so letters or post-cards applying for information should be posted to-day to—The SECRETARY, PELMAN SCHOOL OF THE MIND, 15, WENHAM HOUSE, BLOOMSBURY STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Our readers abroad can obtain this book from the Pelman Schools at the following places: 9, Churchgate Street, Bombay; 47, Queen Street, Melbourne; Club Arcade, Durban; and 3, Amalienstr., Munich.

£1,000 NOW OFFERED!

FOR "BULLETS" EVERY WEEK.

The continued and increasing success of our Bullets Competition enables us to make the remarkable offer of over 3,000 Prizes to the total value of over £1,000. This undoubtedly constitutes the most generous offer made by any paper.

IMPORTANT.

EVERY COUPON received, whether it arrives early or on the closing day of the Competition, is carefully and conscientiously READ TWICE by our special staff of adjudicators.

First Prize £200

2nd Prize £25 - 3rd Prize £10

Ten Prizes of £2 10s. each,

A Large Number of £1 and 10s. Prizes,

200 Prizes of 7/6 each,

AND

3,000 OTHER VALUABLE PRIZES.

IMPORTANT.

Coupons arriving on the date of closing are read with just as much trouble and care as those arriving earlier. "BULLETS" is the ONLY Competition in which every Coupon is READ TWICE.

"BULLETS"—THE BEST-JUDGED COMPETITION.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

CHRISTMAS
CAN'T DO WITHOUT
TRADE UNIONS
TELEPHONE GIRL
THREE BRASS BALLS
PEACE CONFERENCE.
LONDON
HER EYES
MAKES ME CROSS
WITHOUT DELAY
MOTHER
SCOTLAND YARD
SANTA CLAUS
BAD LUCK
A PENNY
PLAYING THE GAME
ALWAYS GRUMBLING
MISTLETOE
FEELING NERVOUS
WOMAN'S RIGHTS
CONSULTING A LAWYER
THE MASTER
CANADA
WHEN WED
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
WINTER SALES
MR. TAFT
COOK'S DEPARTURE
CHRISTMAS PUDDING
LOVED AND LOST
STANDING DRINKS
THE GREAT ILLUSION
SILLY ASS
MOST DANGEROUS
NEVER KNEW
SPOONING.
VISITING THE DENTIST
SCANDAL
DOCTORS' BILLS
BRAVE MAN

☞ **Kindly note that in consequence of the Xmas holidays the closing date of this week's competition is Tuesday, Dec. 24th.**

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example "SPOONING," and choose the letters "P" and "O," using the word "Evening," as the middle word, you can form the Bullet "PLEASANT EVENING OCCUPATION." Or from the example "DOCTORS' BILLS," the Bullet "IRRITATING DOCUMENTS," can be formed. Again, if you take the example "TELEPHONE GIRL" and choose the letter "T" as initial letter for both the first and the last word you can form the Bullet "TRIES MANY TEMPERS."

KINDLY NOTE.

That Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition are in no way debarred from winning again.

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence, but if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

☞ **Continental competitors please note that:—**

FOR THIS COMPETITION THEY ARE ALLOWED UNTIL FRIDAY, DEC. 27th, TO SEND IN.

Closing date, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Example .....

Bullet .....

Example .....

Bullet .....

(12) P.O. No. .....

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

.....

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

Closing date, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Example .....

Bullet .....

Example .....

Bullet .....

(12) P.O. No. .....

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

.....

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

IF BOTH COUPONS ARE USED A POSTAL ORDER FOR 1/- MUST BE SENT.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the editor, assisted by a competent staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on this page, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d., made payable to JOHN BULL, and crossed ——— & Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.

4. Coupons must not be cut or defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.

5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Tuesday, December 24th.

6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet reaching him shall receive careful consideration by a competent staff; but the Editor will not hold himself responsible for coupons lost or mislaid.

7. No correspondence can be entered into concerning this competition.

8. The Editor's decision on all matters concerning this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

RESULT OF NINTH BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £200:—

Mr. R. REAT,
180, Gorgie Road, Edinburgh.
Example:—WORKING MAN.
Bullet:—AFTER ELECTION NOBODY.

SECOND PRIZE OF £25:—

Mr. A. PACKHAM,
P.O., Long Sutton, Langport, Somerset.
Example:—HOSPITAL NURSE.
Bullet:—A "CONSOLATION" PRIZE.

THIRD PRIZE OF £10:—

Mr. WM. BURKINSHAW,
22, Yew St., The Glen, Brooghton, Manchester.
Example:—THE TIPPING SYSTEM.
Bullet:—TANNERS BUY MANNERS.

TEN Prizes of £2 10s. are awarded as follows:

Miss T. HASTINGS, 192, Plumstead Common Road, Plumstead, S.E. (SIMPLE SIMON—PLAYED THE MARKER); Mr. T. HUNTER, 4, Wilmot Street, Ilkeston (FATHER AND MOTHER—TREASURER AND TREASURE); Mr. J. S. McADAM, 10, King Edward Street, Alexandria, Scotland (MY GROWL—WHISTLING MORNING MILKBOY); Mr. L. A. CHURCH, 47, Sussex Road, Tonbridge (DANCING—SKIPPING, RIPPING, DRIPPING); Mr. A. E. REID, 81, Orleans Road, Old Swan, Liverpool (NOBODY WANTS—BEDFELLOWS THAT BITE); Mr. J. SCARLES, 5, Palgrave Road, Great Yarmouth (ASKING FATHER—RESULT "APPROVED SOCIETY"); Mr. P. T. SHEAHAN, 16, Arnold Gardens, Palmer's Green, London, N. (NOBODY WANTS WHAT DUSTMAN TAKES); Mr. T. JOHNSON, 64, Ivor Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham (GENERAL ELECTION—COUNTESSES RISING OFFSPRING).

£2 10s. Divided Between.

Mr. T. B. PAINTER, 78, Helix Road, Brixton Hill, S.W. (WHISKY AND SODA—SPLENDID "SPEECHMAKER") and Mr. D. PEACOCK, 1, Whetstone Parade, High Road Whetstone (WHISKY AND SODA—SPEARS AFTER DINNER).

£2 10s. Divided Between.

Mr. D. ROBERTSON, 72, Coventry Drive, Glasgow (MATINEE HAT—TURNS ANOTHER HEAD) and Mr. A. WILMOT, 18, Ashburn Mews, Gloucester Road, South Kensington, S.W. (MATINEE HAT—EVERYBODY HEAD ELEVATES).

10 PRIZE WINNERS of £1 EACH.

Mrs. G. BARBER, 140, St. James Street, Burnley.
HENRY FARNEN, 52, Killarney Road, Old Swan, Liverpool.
F. HARROW, 22, Ivydale Road, Nunhead, S.E.
Mrs. E. LESSONS, 65, Derby Road, Northampton.
VERA PENSON, The Wick Garage, Hove, Sussex.
W. RUSE, 12, Rempston Road, Rodwell, Weymouth.
GEORGE SPENCER c.o. Faller 128, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh.
ROBERT STEPHENSON, 102, Turton Road, Bradshaw, nr. Bolton.
Mrs. G. STORY, 18, Central Park Avenue, Liscard, Cheshire.
C. B. WOOLWARD, 23, Bruntsfield Gardens, Edinburgh.

20 PRIZE WINNERS of 10s. EACH.

T. D. BRENNAN, Mill Lands, Neath.
E. B. CHAPELLE, 29, Montcalm Avenue, Barking.
W. F. CAREY, 3, Third Avenue, Teignmouth, South Devon.
ERNEST S. COLE, 33, Grove Park Avenue, Brislington, Bristol.
T. A. COMETTI, Bty. Serg.-Major, R.H.A. Club, Derby Rd., Nottingham.
F. DITCHAM, 65, York Place, Edinburgh.
F. GALLO, 90, Woodbury Street, Tooting, S.W.
JOHN GRAHAM, 31, Holden Street, Shaftesbury Estate, S.W.
Miss M. E. GOODHARE, 23, Ash Street, Southport, S.W.
B. HARPER, 93, Kingston Road, Birmingham.
C. S. HAUXWELL, Depot H. L. I. The Barracks, Hamilton, N.B.
WILLIAM INGHAM, 12, Edward Street, St. Peter's Road, Mile End, E.
Mrs. A. JOYCE, 7, Willett Road, Acton, W.
A. LUCAS, 57, Knighton Road, Plymouth, Devon.
Miss M. MARWOOD, 15, East Mount, Malton, Yorks.
WILLIAM MEDCALF, c.o. Messrs. R. Harlow and Son, Heaton, Norris Brass Works, Stockport.
Miss E. RYAN, 11, Lower Camden Street, Dublin, Ireland.
CHAS. H. STAVELEY, 13, Birch Grove, Levenshulme, Manchester.
A. G. TYDEMAN, 32, Strathbrook Road, Streatham, S.W.
JACK WAINE, 8, North Cottages, Napsbury, St. Albans, Herts.

Dunn, John, Rockingham, Lockington, Beverley, Yorks.
Darling, William, 82, Murray-rd., Rugby.
Edson, Mrs. Lena, 218, Byron-ave., Manor Park, E.
Edwards, Walter J., 5, Lawrence-rd., Bow, E.
Evans, John H., 12, Darran-rd., Mountain Ash, Glamorganshire.
Evans, R. H., 45, Oakfield-st., Cardiff.
Farnsworth, Mrs., 3, Lorne-st., Heywood, Lancs.
Ferguson, Charles, 25, Scalegill-rd., Moor-row, Cumberland.
Fernsby, Frederick R., The Grammar School, Barrow-on-Soar, Loughboro'.
Finck, A. K., Woodlands-view, Eashot, Hants.
Fisher, F. W., 31, Willingdon-rd., Westbury-ave., Wood Green, London, N.
Fisher, Percival H., Grove Nursery, Nightingale-grove, Hither Green, S.E.
Foster, J. C., 7, Cambridge-rd., Lee, S.E.
Fowles, George Wm., 65, Replingham-rd., Southfields, S.W.
Fox, Denis F., 7, Prebend Mansions, Chiswick, W.
Foyle, Mrs. Lilian, 103, Brightwell-ave., Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.
Funnell, F., 38, Frederick-pl., Brighton.
Gardiner, William, Silverspring, Chedworth, Glos.
Garrett, W. L., 188, Wellesley-rd., Ilford, Essex.
Gernat, Herbert, 151, High-st., Hampton Hill, Middlesex.
Gibson, Bert, 35, Dorset-st., Hull.
Gibson, G. P., Glenburn Cottage, Rothsay, Scotland.
Gibson, Tom, 4, Botany Bay-yard, Armley, Leeds.
Gill, Harry, 92, Carr House-rd., Doncaster, Yorkshire.
Glaister, Mrs. A., 27, Second-ave., Fazakerley, Liverpool.
Goddard, E., 12, Alexandra-rd., Colchester.
Goodricke, Edith, West-view, Station-rd., Bridlington.
Goff, A., 91, Craven Park-rd., Stamford Hill, London, N.
Goldsworth, W. T., Beaconsfield-st., Long Eaton.
Gomperts, Arthur A., Ivydene, Norwich-rd., Walton, S.O. Thetford, Norfolk.
Goss, A., 22, Invicta-rd., Blackheath, S.E.
Gracie, J. C., 80, Canterbury-rd., Deptford, S.E.
Grant, E., Golf Club, St. Leonards-on-Sea.
Granville, Henry, 40, Berwick-st., Gateshead-on-Tyne, co. Durham.
Gray, W. H., 71, Heathwood-gdns., Old Charlton, S.E.
Green, Harold V., 19, Springfield-rd., Tottenham, N.
Griffin, C., "Homeville," Skegby, nr. Mansfield, Notts.
Griffiths, D. P., Glanyrafon, Llancarfan, Barry, S.W.
Griffiths Miss R., 14, Prospect Hill, Stourbridge, Worcester.
Gross, C. E., 20a, Tremaine-rd., Anerley.
Gubbins, Mrs. H., 176, Above Bar, Southampton.
Hayne, J., 65, Highfield-rd., South Shore, Blackpool.
Haynes, Mrs. E., Radnor Lodge, Napier-rd., Wembley, Middlesex.
Haines, F. F., 104, Oxendon-st., Leicester.
Hall, Ellen M., Newhall-Dunlop, Ayrshire, Scotland.
Halpin, E. Herbert, 7, Russell ave., Wood Green, London, N.
Hamilton, Basil D., 7, Station rd., Southwold, Suffolk.
Hanson, E., 66, Brunswick-st., Cheetham, Manchester.
Harding, George, 114, Beecham-rd., Reading.
Harvey, Percy H., 45, St. Aidans-rd., East Dulwich, S.E.
Hatlipp, John H., 126, High-st., Lincoln.
Heatley, George, 354, Heather-rd., Small Heath, Birmingham.
Heckman, M., 14, Everton Valley, Liverpool.
Hedges, F. J., 27, Desborough-rd., Plymouth.
Henderson, Thomas, 18, Gayfield-sq., Edinburgh.
Henson, Miss Annie, 257, Stockport-rd., Levenshulme, Manchester.
Hepburn, R., 1, Gladstone-rd., Deal, Kent.
Herbert, Gilbert, 28, March-st., Strathbungo, Glasgow.
Herd, Robert S., The Pharmacy, 191, High-st., Kirkcaldy.
Heseltine, C. W., 20, Danehurst-rd., Wallasey, Cheshire.
Hill, A. J. 6, Albion-st., Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent.
Hill F., 60, St. Helens-ave., Swansea.
Hill, John, jun., 42, Morningside-rd., Edinburgh.
Hilton, Frank, 131, Bennett's-lane, Bolton.
Hind, R. B., 40, High-st., Newcastle, Stoke-on-Trent.
Hitchcock A. H., Pontrcaina, Milner-rd., Burnham, Bucks.
Hobbs, A. R., 20, Bregnbirion-st., Dowlais, S. Wales.
Hodgson, Harry, 51, English-st., Carlisle.
Holland, T. W., 130 Bedford-st., Crewe
Hollyman J. H., 475, High-rd., Chiswick.
Holmes, Enock, 269, Castleford-rd., Normanton, Yorks.
Holt, James R., 28, Viola-st., Bolton.
Horton, Charles W., 12, Beauclerc-rd., Hammersmith, London, W.
Howell, H. C., 35, Collc-rd., Forest Hill, London, S.E.
Howlett, Percy F., 3, Oakley Villas, Princes rd., Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

SELECTION FROM LIST OF 400 WINNERS OF SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TURKEYS. "BULLETS" COMPETITION NO. 9.

The Completion of this List of the 400 Turkey Winners will be found in "Mrs. Bull" dated Dec. 28th.

Abernethy, M., 6, Parkgate-ave., Belfast.
Abraham, G., 47, Staffa-st., Tibshelf, Derbyshire.
Adamson, Mrs. L. M., 14, Raphael-rd., Grivesend.
Almy, Mrs. Vernon J., 2, Oak Villas, Spring-rd., Sholing, Hants.
Andrews, Mrs., 69, Shrewsbury-rd., Harlesden, London, N.W.
Andrews, F., 5, Cotswold-ter., Millbrook, Southampton.
Annand, Mrs. M., 121, Rectory-rd., Burnley, Lancashire.
Armitage, John T., 38, Ingleby-st., Brownroyd, Bradford, Yorks.
Armour, S., 53, Clarence-rd., Kettering, Northants.
Arnold, T. H., 14, Covent Garden Market, Leamington Spa.
Arnold, W., Q.M.-Sgt. Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks, London, S.W.
Arnold, W. L., 20, Clearmont-rd., Redwell, Weymouth.
Arroll, R. F., El Nide, Upminster, Essex.
Ashton, J. H., 16, Bromley-rd., Shipley, Yorkshire.
Ashton, Douglas, 23, Foden-st., Newcastle, Staffordshire.
Asher, Geo. W., "Montana," Forres.
Askin, H. J., 10, Nichol's-st., George-st., Pendleton, Manchester.
Aspinal, G., 17, Stephens-rd., Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Atkinson Henry, 79, Great Victoria-st., Belfast.
Austen, W. E., 25, Foncaster-rd., Dover.
Baillie, Gordon, 121, Fawnbrake-ave., Herne Hill, London, S.E.
Bagley, T., 15, Nelson-st., Leicester.
Bailey, Thos., 7, Westbrook-rd., Alton, Hants.
Ballard, Thos. H., 13, Castle-st., Worcest'r.
Balmforth, William, 61, Urmson-st., Oldham, Lancs.
Bamfield, P., c/o 16, York-ter., Normanby, N. Yorks.
Banks, Mrs. M., 2, Holly Cottages, Lodge-rd., Wallington, Surrey.
Barmerman, Jas., 12, Government Bld., E. Farnborough, Hants.
Barton, Mrs. D., 161, Lancaster-rd., Notting Hill, W.
Basford, A. J., Witney, Oxford.
Bateman, J., Dudley, 35, Severn-ave., Weston-super-Mare.
Bateman, Miss M., 3, Clifton-rd., Tuebrook, Liverpool.
Bateter, James, 29, Netherley-st., Longtown, Cumberland.
Beach, C. S., "The Gardens," Sturry-court, Canterbury.
Beasley, C., 33, Camelford-st., Brighton.
Beasley, Arthur O., "Ivydene," Coniston, Cambs.
Beaver, W., 7, Rolt-st., Deptford, S.E.
Beech, J., 9, Cove Cottages, Portland.
Bennet, Thomas, 63, Lower-st., Newcastle, Staffs.
Bessant, W., 6, Humberstone-rd., Plaistow, London, E.
Birtwistle, Edith, 86, Compton-rd., Wolverhampton.
Black, J., Anna Villa, Greenock-rd., Paisley.
Blakeney, Robert, 48, Mortlake-rd., Kew.
Blanchard, Mrs. E., 46, Burlington-ave., Oldham, Lancs.
Blewett, R., 31, Rivett-st., Truro.
Boagey, Chas., 19, Edendale-ter., Gatesh'd.
Bond, V. A., 260, Nantwich-rd., Crewe.
Booth, Herbert, 33, St. Matthias-rd., Nottingham.
Booth, Mrs. F. M., 175, Bedford-st. South, Liverpool.
Boothroyd, John William, 44, Sandford Grove-rd., Sheffield.
Boulton, H., Coxwall Farm, Beaworthy, Devon.
Bowman, Mrs., 9, Low Church-st., Whitehaven.
Boxall, J., 52, Denison-rd., Collier's Wood, Merton.
Boyd, Jas. H., Home Villa, Millport, Scotland.
Boyd, W. H., Comn. Agent, Gorbiehall, Bo'ness, N.B.
Brennan, Miss E., 82, Moyne-rd., Dublin.
Brennan, Sapper M., Ordnance Survey, Falkland, Fife, N.B.
Brewis, Geo., 3, Co-operative-ter., Palmersville, Northumberland.
Briegel, D., 12, Selby-rd., Anerley.
Britcher, P. W., 49, High-st., Old Brompton, Chatham, Kent.
Brockbank, Mrs. Jennie Ripon-rd., New Park, Harrogate.
Brown, Wm., 73, Northcote-st., South Shields.
Brown, Percy E., Ivanhoe, Grange-ave., Woodford Green, Essex.
Browne, Florence M. S., 2, Brunswick-ter., Penrith, Cumberland.
Bryan, Cecil, 96, Mather-rd., Eccles, Lancs.
Buck, W. W., Hillside-ter., Bedwas, Mon.
Bull, Henry C., 56, Kinveachy-gdns., Old Charlton, Kent.
Bullock, W. H., 15, High-st., Newport, I. of W.
Burton, F., 11, Kingsgate-rd., West Hampstead.
Butler, Alf. H., 8, Manor-st., Berkhampstead, Herts.
Bates, Richard, 115, Dean-st., Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs.
Cave, Percy, 93, Wellmeadow-rd., Catford, S.E.
Callaway, C., 21, Chelsea-rd., Southsea, Hants.
Casson, H., 395, Bury-rd., Bolton.
Chubb, A., 45, Margate-rd., Ramsgate.
Chalmers, Joseph, 17, York-rd., Douglas, Isle of Man.
Chilton, Emma, 50, Hampton-rd., Forest Gate, E.
Clark, Christina L., 69, Mercheston-ave., Edinburgh.
Clark, L. E., 50, York-rd., New Southgate, N.
Clark, S., 14, Kirkstall-rd., Sharrow Vale, Sheffield.
Claughton, Leslie, 159, Burley-rd., Burley, Leeds.
Clegg, Miss D., The Bungalow, Mablethorpe, Linc.
Clewer, E., 3, St. Catherine's-rd., Winchester, Hants.
Coate, D. H., 92, Aslett-st., Wandsworth.
Cobain, Henry, 5, Goddard Hall-rd., Firvale, Sheffield.
Cochrane, A. W., 3, Chandos-rd., Prestwich, Manchester.
Coffin, E. N., 9, Maple-rd., Bitterne Park, Southampton.
Cole, James, Breeches Farm Cottages, Cholsey, Berks.
Colledge, Lewis, 45, Haddon-st., Leicester.
Collis, James, 5, St. Bride's-rd., Egremont, Cheshire.
Cooke, Elsie, 169, Victoria-rd., Handsworth, Birmingham.
Copeland, Mrs., 3, Portland-cres., Troon, Scotland.
Cordery, Mrs. G., 5, Watford-rd., Croxley Green, Herts.
Corbyn, George, 18, Britannia-rd., Worcester.
Cotton, Edw., Trewarveth-st., Newlyn, Penzance.
Coulter, David, jun., 21, Princes-st., Pollokshields, Glasgow.
Cox, C. P., 27, Mafeking-rd., Southsea.
Crabbe, H. J., 16, Kimberley-rd., Skotty, Glamorgan, R.S.O.
Crane, Miss, 19, Felden-st., Fulham.
Creek, Herbert H., 51, Gwyddon-rd., Abercarn, Mon.
Cumming, Mrs., 41, Vengeance-st., Vickerstown, Barrow-in-Furness.
Cunningham, John, Hill End, nr. St. Albans, Herts.
Curtis, Mrs. M., 41, Gwendolen-rd., Leicester.
Davies, D. H., 34, Rockingham-ter., rd., Barry Dock, Glam.
Davies, H. E., The Laurels, Dock View-rd., Barry Dock, Glam.
Davies, P. W., 18, The Dunns, Mumbles, nr. Swansea, Glam.
Dawes, Mrs. G., 7, Burns-rd., Wealdstone, Middlesex.
Dawson, L., George-st., Snaith, S.O. Yorks.
Deall, W. C., 81, Tunstall-rd., E. Croydon.
Dearnley, Edgar, South-view, Netherton, nr. Huddersfield.
Denoir, Mrs., The Beach, Queenstown.
Dorset, A., 4, Mentmore Villas, College-rd., College Town, Camberley, Surrey.
Dowler, Emma, 20, Highbury-rd., Horfield, Bristol.
Dunn, H. L., 22, Croydon-rd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Complete List of 1,000 Prize Winners of Christmas Presents can be seen at the "Mrs. Bull" Offices.

Racing Notes.

There are an abundance of meetings this week, but with Newbury on Saturday we finish up until Boxing Day brings Kempton, Wolverhampton and one or two minor meetings. So far, with the exception of Brandimintine amongst the older horses and a few promising three-year-olds such as Dalnaspidal and Pollen, we have not seen many promising novices, but better things will happen in the New Year. The present week will see the forces split up between Derby and Folkestone on Wednesday and Thursday, but a re-union will be effected at Newbury on Friday. Many of the animals engaged at Derby are also in at Folkestone, and then appear in the Newbury lists, so that discrimination and selection will be somewhat difficult.

Prophetic.

The Derbyshire Steeplechase is the most valuable event set for decision to-day, and appears to give

FORKHILL

a good chance of compensating for the disappointment at Nottingham last week, when a steeplechase for which he would have been a good order was abandoned through fog. CLOSEWOOD BECK should win the Ashbourne Hurdle if that is the race chosen for him. DALNASPIDAL has an easier thing than he would have in taking on Pollen at Newbury, and ought to win the Three-year-old Hurdle. On Thursday KYA LAMI, also variously engaged, should take the Burton Steeplechase. He does not look to have such a good chance in the Long Distance Hurdle, which should just suit HERBERT VINCENT.

Good things at Folkestone on Wednesday should be WICKTONA for the Three-year-old Hurdle and VIOLET CHARLESWORTH for the Ramsgate Steeplechase. On Thursday

MASTER BOWES

must be real good for the Juvenile Hurdle, and ST. AUSTLE has a great chance in the Beginners' Hurdle.

The Newbury programme presents a rare puzzle, entries being large on both days, with plenty of duplications. The best thing of the meeting is represented by

POLLEN,

in Friday's Juvenile Hurdle, although the price will not be very much. CANNOCK LASS can win the Didcot Hurdle, and from Ireland such good accounts come of the jumping abilities of COLDREEN that he should be good for the Open Steeplechase. Follow BITTER CHERRY in the Berkshire Hurdle on Saturday, when also FEATHERSTONE is nicely treated in the Lambourn Steeplechase.

SPORTING REPLIES.

HAMILTON AND CO. (Binningen).—G. C. H. (Coventry).—This is a perfectly respectable firm. They are one of the leading Football Accountants on the Continent.

WALTER CHADWICK (Lucerne).—D. I. (Belfast), "BUTCH" (Halifax).—This advertisement escaped our notice, but was immediately removed on our attention being called to it.

GENEVA TOTALISATOR.—F. S. (London).—We are looking into your complaint.

H. GRAHAM, Strand.—ESCULAPUIS.—We know nothing of this man.

"R. A. OXFORD," Warwick Street.—A. C. (London).—Afraid your chance is hopeless.

FOSTER AND BEDFORD, Lucerne.—"SCOT"—We cannot recommend dealings.

"TOM NEWMAN"—WUMPMUG.—Keep your money in your pocket.

PATRICK FARLEY, Glasgow.—A. E. S. (Ramsay).—We have no complaints, but cannot say more.

WILLIAM FARRER, Glasgow.—"TEHERAN.—Afraid your chance is very remote.

People's Sport, Arlesheim.—G. H. (Sheffield) —No good.

J. BEVAN, Torquay. —"MORRIS."—You had better inform the *Sportsman* that you cannot get the money which they have decided you are entitled to.

A. DUGDALE, Worcester Park.—W. M. (Swansea).—Afraid we cannot help you. Why do you go so far away from home?

SMALLMAN AND TERRY.—B. H. (Southgate).—Geneva is sufficient address. We are sure they will treat you honourably D. McC. (Ontario).—See above. They are highly responsible firm.

RALPH CARLTON.—D. H. M. (Talgarth).—We have carefully considered the facts you have placed before us, but are afraid we cannot assist you to recover your money.

DOUGLAS LEWIS AND CO.—COLE.—We are sorry we cannot help you.

J. BERESFORD (Birmingham and Geneva).—H. M. T. (Dudley).—Quite safe.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

We cannot in future reply to questions about betting disputes, defaulting bookmakers, etc. Readers should deal only with firms whose advertisements are inserted in this journal. Then we know how to deal with them.

MR. DIAMOND'S GENEROSITY.

Just as we are going to press we have received a wire from Mr. H. Diamond, of Lucerne, intimating his intention of subscribing £50 to our Christmas Charities Fund. Nothing like a good sportsman where the cause of charity is concerned.

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Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, 21st December, 1912.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

	Matches played on ground of first-named team.	Last Year's Result.	JOHN BULL	Lofting's Weekly.	Umpire.	Weekly Dispatch.	Sunday Chronicle.	News of the World.	London Mail.	Irish Sporting Titles.	Football Guide.
1ST LEAGUE	Blackburn R. v. West Brom. A.	Blackburn won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Derby C. v. Manchester C.	No match	Home	Home	Away	Draw	Draw	Draw	Home	Draw	Away
	Tottenham H. v. Bradford C.	Bradford won	Draw	Draw	Away	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Draw	Away
	Middlesbro' v. Woolwich A.	Woolwich won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Notts C. v. Chelsea.	No match	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Away	Home	Draw	Draw	Home
	Manchester U. v. Oldham A.	Man. Un. won	Home	Draw	Home	Away	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home
	Aston V. v. Newcastle Un.	Aston V. won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Liverpool v. Sheffield Un.	Liverpool won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Sunderland v. Bolton W.	Bolton won	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Sheffield Wed v. Everton	Everton won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Draw
2ND LEAGUE	Barnsley v. Lincoln C.	No match	Home	Away	Away	Home	Draw	Away	Home	Home	Home
	Blackpool v. Preston N.E.	No match	Draw	Away	Away	Draw	Away	Draw	Away	Draw	Away
	Bradford v. Clapton O.	Bradford won	Away	Draw	Draw	Draw	Away	Home	Draw	Draw	Home
	Bury v. Bristol C.	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Away	Home	Home	Home
	Fulham v. Notts F.	Fulham won	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Grimsby T. v. Birmingham	Grimsby won	Draw	Home	Away	Away	Home	Away	Away	Home	Home
	Leicester F. v. Hull C.	Leicester won	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Draw	Away	Home	Home	Home
	Leeds C. v. Huddersfield	Leeds C. won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home
	Lockport C. v. Burnley	Burnley won	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	—	Away	Away	Draw
	Wolverhampton W. v. Glossop	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Millingham v. Southampton	Gillingham won	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	—	Home	Home	Home
	Northampton v. Plymouth A.	North'ton won	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Queen's P. R. v. Crystal P.	Queen's Pk won	Draw	Home	Home	Away	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Stratford v. Hartlpl Y.	No match	Home	Home	Away	Draw	Home	—	Draw	Draw	Home
	Millwall A. v. Watford	Millwall won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bristol R. v. Coventry C.	Bristol won	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home
	Swindon v. Brighton and H. A.	Brighton won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Portsmouth v. West Ham Un.	No match	Away	Away	Home	Draw	Away	—	Home	Draw	Draw
	Norwich City v. Reading.	Norwich C. won	Away	Draw	Away	Draw	Away	Draw	Draw	Draw	Home
	Clarke v. Exeter C.	Exeter C. won	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Away	Draw

Home signifies first mentioned team to win—Away second mentioned team to win.

J. McLAUCHLAN, LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND. Established 20 Years

RACING.
Winnings returned to clients by first post after results are known. Letters only require to bear a time postmark previous to advertised time of race to be "on" according to rules.

NO LIMIT!

FOOTBALL.
Pick where you like in the Four Leagues. No match barred! Don't wait for coupons—plain paper will do!

"STAKES ON," "UP and DOWN," and "ANY to COME" Commissions are all accepted,
FROM 1/- TO ANY AMOUNT.
Letter Commissions:—54, CORDON ST., GLASGOW. Wires:—"GALLOP, GLASGOW."

TIP-TOP PRICES. FOOTBALL. Postage 2½d.

WHITE, FISHER & CO.,

(5, Rue du Commerce), GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.
(THE WORLD'S PREMIER FOOTBALL ACCOUNTANTS.)

To safeguard our Clients we have not removed business to Scotland, in consequence every client who remits 2/6 or over may add an extra sixpence to stake to defray his expenses. Payments made on Tuesday.

Make a start this week. Coupons, Price Lists, &c., sent free upon application, and if you mention this paper, we will send you Booklet containing revised Fixture List and other Information; but do not wait for coupons, write your selections upon plain paper.

"Everybody's doing it." Good prices returned. NOTHING BARRED in the FOUR LEAGUES. Letters must bear a 2 p.m. *postmark* at the latest. Not less than 4 Home Teams accepted. Over £25,000 paid away last season.

ENGLISH CUP £500: Terms on application.

JOHN BULL, Nov. 9th, 1912, says: "White, Fisher and Co. (Geneva).—"We went fully into this firm's method of business when in Switzerland. It is absolutely straight, and is run by a well-known London Turf Accountant. We were shown the original coupons which entitled one client to £500 for the outlay of five shillings, and, what is more, he got it."

HARRY APPLETON,

THE MAN WHO ALWAYS PAYS.

Turf & Football Accountant,

Business as usual during Jumping Season. Credits accounts, 79 & 81 Borough High St., London, and Deposit a/c's. Dept. B.,

Lucerne, Switzerland.

JOHN BULL, Nov. 16, 1912, says:—"You can rely upon MR. APPLETON treating you quite honourably."
Send for my unique Racing and Football Terms.

£100 FREE PRIZE OFFERED WEEKLY.

MR. ARTHUR WILLIAMS, 90a, Leverson Street, Streatham, S.W. received £300 for 2/6 invested recently.

PATRICK FARLEY,

TURF and FOOTBALL Accountant,
19, HOWARD STREET, GLASGOW.

NOTE. Winnings posted back to clients by first post after results are known.

Also at Lucerne, Switzerland.

H. HAMILTON & CO.,

BINNINGEN, SWITZERLAND.
THE OLDEST-ESTABLISHED FOOTBALL ACCOUNTANTS IN THE WORLD.

FOOTBALL

Send a postcard (postage 1d.) for the most liberal price-list issued. Absolutely every match in the English, Southern, and Scotch Leagues to pick from. No need to wait for Coupons; write your commissions on plain paper.

£50 FREE OFFER open to all Clients

Our Football Annual sent free on mentioning this paper.

BERT FRY, BIRSFELDEN, SWITZERLAND.

FOOTBALL.

No. 1 or PICK WHERE YOU LIKE.

No. 2 or Selected Matches. No. 3 or Half-time Matches.
Write for Particulars. For my announcements see "Racing and Football Outlook."

LESLIE MURRAY & CO.,

7, NORTH ST. DAVID STREET, EDINBURGH, & LUCERNE.

Leading Football Accountants.

Best Prices Always. | No Barring Clauses in Four Leagues.
No Alterations. | 3 Teams may be Backed.
Monday Settlements.

Send your Instructions on Plain Paper if no Coupons.

My Short Form, Dec. 21, 1912.

DERBY CO. v MANCHESTER CITY
ASTON VILLA v NEWCASTLE U.
TOTTENHAM v BRADFORD CITY
BARNSLEY v LINCOLN CITY
GRIMSBY TOWN v BIRMINGHAM
BLACKPOOL v PRESTON N.E.
QUEEN'S PARK R. v CRYSTAL P.
NORTHAMPTON v PLYMOUTH
PORTSMOUTH v WEST HAM
MOTHERWELL v MORTON
RAITH ROVERS v CLYDE
ST. MIRREN v FALKIRK

FOOTBALL. Do your Business with **W. & A. FOX,** FOOTBALL ACCOUNTANTS, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

LOTINGA'S WEEKLY.—This firm has established itself as reliable, and their terms are both liberal and fair to both parties.

JOHN BULL.—The firm of W. & A. FOX has now been established some time as Football Accountants. Their rules are compiled in a most liberal spirit, and are eminently fair to both parties.

FREE! FREE!
RESERVED SEASON TICKETS for any FOOTBALL GROUND PRESENTED ABSOLUTELY FREE EVERY WEEK.
1d. Postcard will bring you Full Particulars.

What is your Number?

Our New Weekly Ballot for 50 Helpers at Two Guineas Apiece

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and PUBLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING ISSUE.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production within seven days of publication (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following claim has been received for our issue of November 30th:—

J. C. PEARSON, Esq., Hackney Homes, Chipping, Ongar, Essex. November 30th. No. 202406.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of December 14th:—

8891	174748	371260	570064	711149
14774	179961	412777	578693	715395
51972	198060	440706	591494	718552
61212	216570	460585	607400	719571
70307	222690	466248	635904	721617
89385	244053	480367	650290	727667
112615	256075	506290	668334	727877
138587	309545	526724	670533	730507
150545	330833	542469	679339	736180
168586	363781	559122	690420	741617

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE (PUBLISHED DECEMBER 25TH.)

MRS. BULL.—"Now, JOHN, here's your Xmas present—a dozen EXCELDA Handkerchiefs."

JOHN.—"Thank you! my dear. I'm delighted—You couldn't have given me anything better."

EXCELDA
HANDKERCHIEFS

Soft as silk—very durable—pure white or dainty designs. Your friends will be delighted to receive a dozen EXCELDA Handkerchiefs for a Christmas Present.

A box containing one dozen Gent.'s EXCELDA Handkerchiefs will cost you only Six Shillings—and can be obtained from the Retail trade all over the Kingdom.

You must insist upon being supplied with the genuine EXCELDA.

See the name EXCELDA on every box.

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